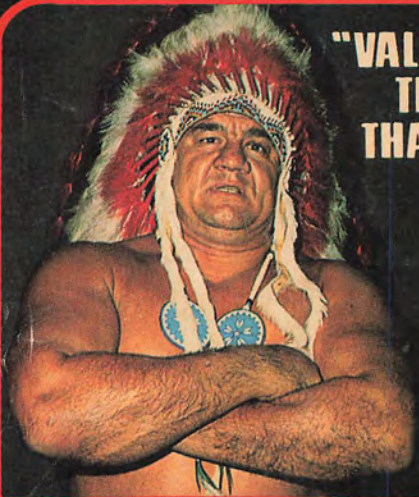


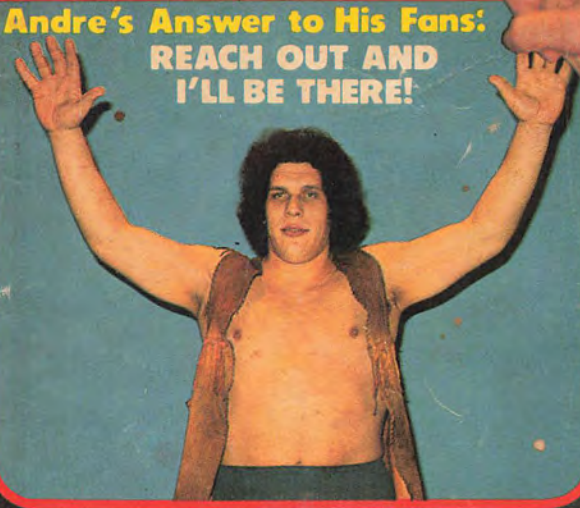
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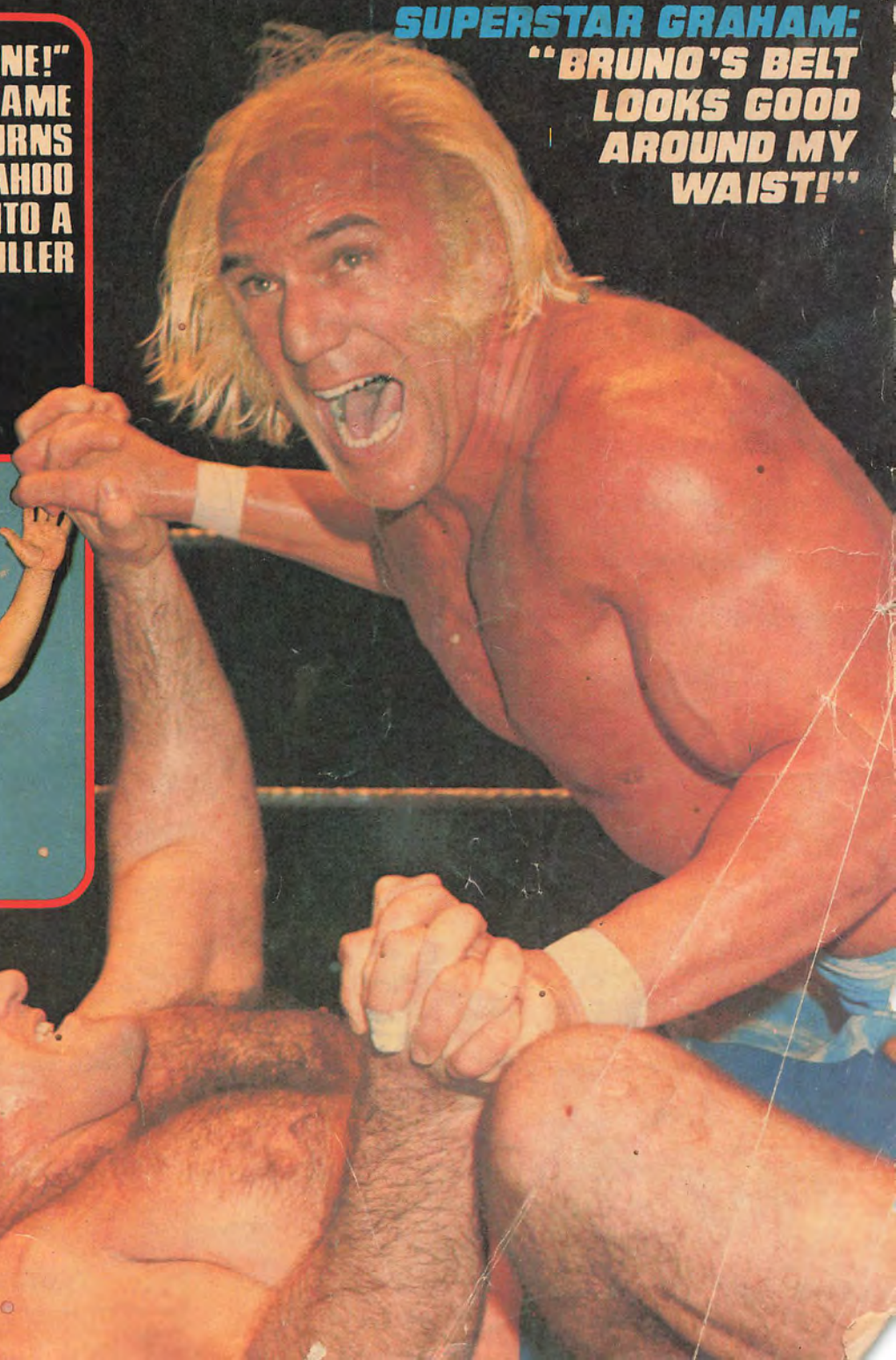
# Wrestling



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THE NAME  
THAT TURNS  
WAHOO  
INTO A  
KILLER**



**Andre's Answer to His Fans:  
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"BRUNO'S BELT  
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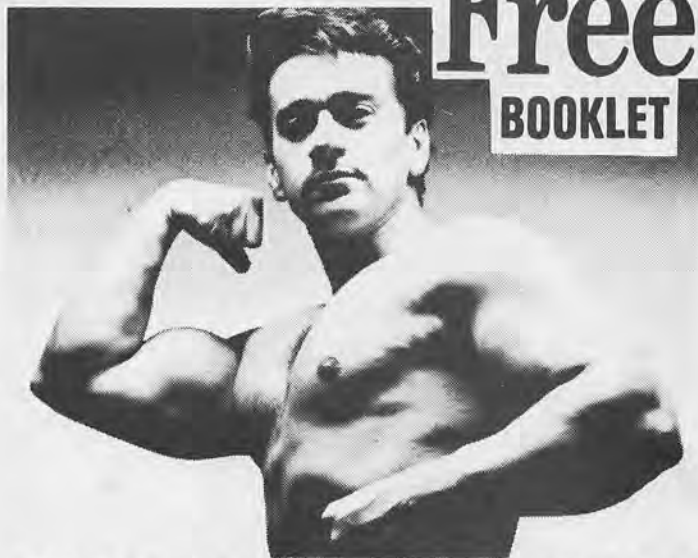
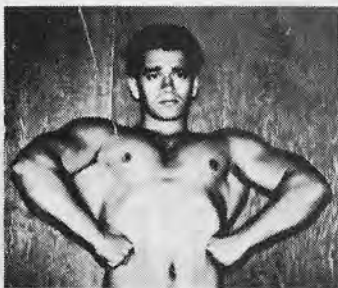
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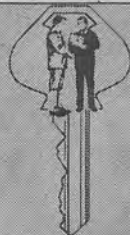
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THE MAGAZINE THAT RIPS  
THE LID OFF PRO WRESTLING

INSIDE

# Wrestling

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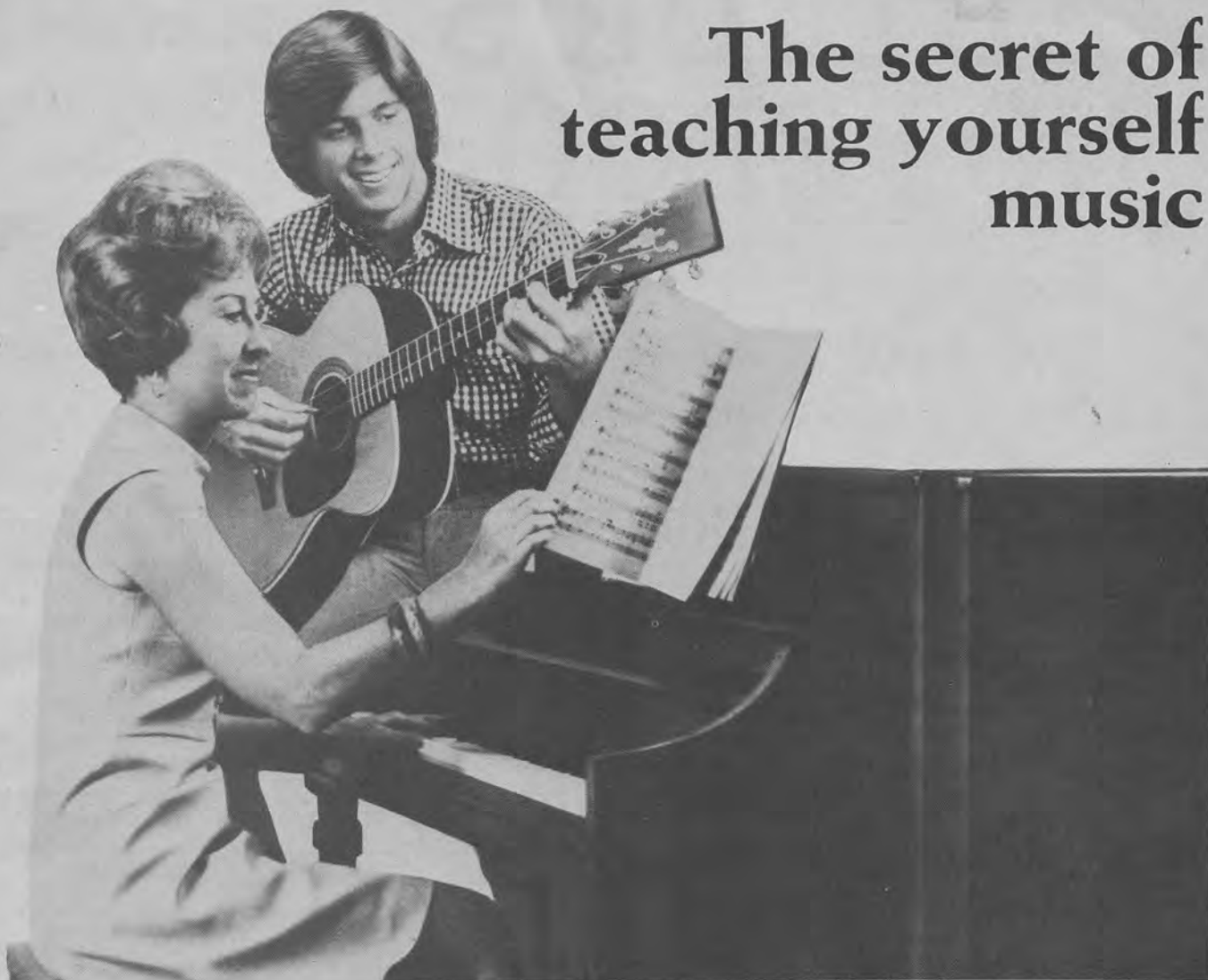
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# EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

Peter  
King

Editor-in-Chief

## AN OPEN LETTER TO HARLEY RACE

Dear Harley,

Congratulations. To become one of the few men ever to regain the NWA title is a great accomplishment indeed. However, there are a few things you must realize. You are the champion of the largest organization in professional wrestling. The eyes of fans all over the world will be on you for every match as long as you hold that golden belt.

Harley, I am telling you this because I well remember your first title reign. Although it only lasted a very short time, it was among the most brutal, most vicious--most cruel--reigns in history.

I am hopeful, Harley, this time it will be different. After all, you were cheered during the match in which you took the belt from Terry Funk. I know those cheers sounded good to you. Perhaps they even gave you the "extra something" which spurred you on to victory. Now, those same fans are booing you.

Yes, Harley, you have reverted to your old brawling, rulebreaking style. I think you must be aware that had you chosen to abide by the rules, you would surely have become the most popular champion in the long history of the National Wrestling Alliance.

The reason I am writing you this letter, Harley, is because soon it will be too late for you to change. The time of decision is here. The fans in the NWA are looking for a champion who will carry their banner, who will wrestle for them. Don't dissappoint us, Harley.

Be good to us, Harley; be wise with us: Turn good guy!

Sincerely Yours,

Peter King; Editor-in-Chief

INSIDE WRESTLING Magazine



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# Body Slams & Pinfalls

By Dan Shocket



Young rookie Bob Backlund has had a very sudden rise to fame, while many veteran wrestlers are being ignored. Could it be that this rise has been too fast?

**T**HESE ARE DESPERATE times. A hero must emerge from the ranks of wrestling. The entire future of the sport is at stake.

Of course, I'm talking about the incomprehensible rise to stardom of lackluster youngsters named Bob Backlund, Greg Gagne, and Larry Zbyszko. Some decent grapplers, such as Ric Flair, Ken Patera, Baron Von Raschke, and a host of others, are needed to make sure this ridiculous trio never gets any further than glorified preliminaries. The entire history of wrestling depends on it.

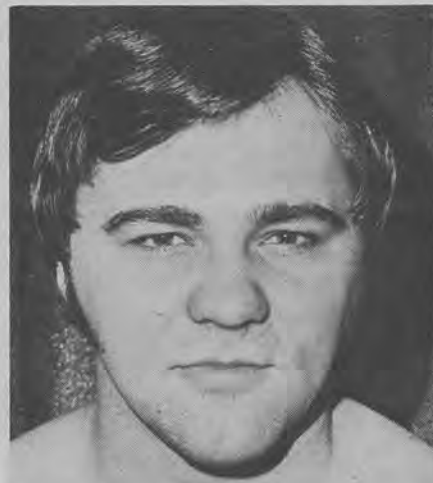
If any of these three crybaby brats gain any more fame, the disgrace to wrestling will be immeasurable. None of them have any sense of what this sport is all about. They

have minds mired in the amateur "don't-hurt-me-and-I-won't-hurt-you" school of wrestling. They claim to be "scientific." It just means they're incompetent. They'll embarrass everyone who cares about the sport.

Let's start by discussing Backlund, although it makes me nauseous. Here's a young guy incapable of defending himself against a warm breeze. People feel sorry for him, as well they should. Many of his opponents, hesitant on beating up the handicapped, take it easy against him. That, and corrupt referees, are the only way to explain his ridiculous success. Of course, he's being coddled by promoters, who think he can be the John-Boy of wrestling. Who the hell wants that? Maybe a couple of fans who want to see wrestling turn into a garden party, but that's about it.

Backlund isn't tough enough or mean enough to make it in pro ranks. If he does, the sport will then turn into a disgraceful bore instead of a contact sport. Why doesn't Backlund take up some other sport, like tiddlywinks? It suits him better. Leave wrestling to the men, Backlund.

It's the men who are going to have to show Backlund what wrestling is all about. The man needs some broken bones and a faceful of stitches before he gets the idea. There are hundreds of wrestlers out there who can put that punk into a hospital. They should start now. Tomorrow may be too late. If by some accident this guy gets a title, wrestling is doomed, at least for



Larry Zbyszko (above) and Greg Gagne (below) are two young stars who are in a position to gain the belts of major associations in the near future.



greats like Baron Von Raschke, Blackjack Mulligan, Stan Hansen, and Bobby Duncum. There will be no place for them in a sport that has Backlund as champion.

It will be even worse if Greg

*(Continued on page 56)*



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by ROBERT ELIAS

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"God bless you Robert for a better life and a new tomorrow. What racing fan could ask for more." H.M., New Jersey

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RICHMOND

**N**EW YORK, N.Y.—We sat 107 stories above reality in the plush restaurant atop the World Trade Center. It was a remarkably clear day out there on this particular afternoon. We could see the Statue of Liberty off in the distance. New Jersey was just beyond.

Bobby Backlund sat across from me. I think he was more awed by the view out the windows than I was. After all, he was still discovering the sights around town. I was on my home turf. I could see the sense of wonder in Bobby's eyes. The last time we had talked, however, I had been the traveler, and Bob had been the one who was at home.

Normally, I try not to feature a wrestler in this column who I have written about before. But in Bobby's case, I had to make an exception. Six months before, he had been a sensational rookie; now he was about to embark on a course of superstardom. He was definitely worth a second interview.

Between the *pate de foie gras* and the *vichyssoise*, Bob and I began to discuss his career, and his future. By the time we finished our chocolate *mousse*, I had learned quite a bit more about Backlund as a person who is feeling the pressures of instant success.



In six months, rookie sensation Bob Backlund has become one of the hottest stars in the wrestling community.

"I just do not understand what is happening," Bobby told me. "A year ago, no one had ever heard of me. Suddenly I'm a 'hot property.' There are promoters in the NWA, the WWWF, and the AWA bidding for my services. A year ago, they wouldn't give me the right time of day."

Wasn't he being just a bit bitter about how things turned out? I wondered.

"Damn straight I'm bitter. Suddenly I've discovered my life is not my own. I am expected to wrestle this guy one night, then go clear across the country to wrestle some other guy the next night. And what happens? My personal life is in a shambles. I have no time to call my own. There are reporters calling my house day and night begging for interviews. Of course, you are an exception. You were one of the only people who sought me out before all this sudden fame happened. That is why I agreed to sit for this interview with you. I wouldn't do this for those others who watch to hitch up with a rising star.

"Unlike most reporters, you are willing to criticize the journalistic community when you see something wrong. Therefore, I would rather talk with you than those other reporters."

I told Bob I was flattered by the praise, but that I was only doing my job. However, I had been curious as to why he had made himself so unavailable to others of my profession. He had answered that question.

I have seen sudden success spoil other men in the past. They just couldn't cope with their rising fortunes. They went wild, and lost whatever talent they had once possessed. Their hastily rising stars were quickly shot down.

But Bob Backlund was different. He seemed quite able to cope with the numerous demands on his time. He seemed in control.

"When things started turning my way," Backlund explained, "I knew I couldn't let success go to my head. I want to have a long career as a wrestler. And, of course, I want to be successful in my endeavors. But

(Continued on Page 60)



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# TOP SECRET

## Behind the Dressing Room Door

by Randy  
Gordon



I AM CONSTANTLY being asked by many fans my personal ratings of the wrestlers in the AWA, NWA and WWWF. Well, here goes: In the AWA, under champion Nick Bockwinkel, I have listed Greg Gagne, Verne Gagne, Pedro Morales, Crusher, and Ray Stevens. My NWA ratings look like this: Under champion Harley Race I have Jack Brisco, Mil Mascaras, Terry Funk, Mr. Wrestling II, Superstar Billy Graham, and Wahoo McDaniel. In the WWWF, under champion Bruno Sammartino, I rate Bob Backlund, Ivan Putski, Ken Patera, Baron Von Raschke and Stan Stasiak. I usually revise my personal ratings on a monthly basis, and these ratings are as of May 1, 1977.

I recently walked into the dressing room of NWA champion Harley Race, looking for an interview. As soon as he saw me he screamed, "Get the hell out of here, Gordon!" I didn't travel from New York to Florida just to get chased out of a dressing room, and I was quite upset—to say the least. It was time for me to go into action. I called my Hollywood makeup man, Matt Fazio, who caught the next plan to Florida.

Two nights later, we got back at Race. Matt gave me a grey beard and a grey wig. The glue he used on the beard made it impossible to yank off. Only a special solution can loosen the glue he used. I went into Race's dressing room as Al Grogan, a journalist from New Jersey. Right away Race became suspicious, and yanked on the beard.

"Owl!" I yelled. "What's the big idea?"

"I'm sorry," replied Race. "I thought you were a pesky reporter from INSIDE WRESTLING in disguise. I'm gonna kill him. A couple of months ago he switched chewing gum on me—gave me onion gum. I was nauseous for two days. I thought you were him in disguise, trying to pull off another nasty prank."

*(Continued on page 62)*



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# NAMES MAKI

**B**OB BACKLUND is reportedly disgusted with his career in the WWWF and has already secured some dates in the AWA areas. Due to a conspiracy aimed at Bob by CAPTAIN LOU ALBANO, THE GRAND WIZARD, and FRED BLASSIE, the young Backlund has been unable to secure anything other than television bouts, usually against rank preliminary wrestlers. Backlund stresses that he wants to stay in the WWWF, but he will do so only if he can better his career there



**WAHOO McDANIEL**

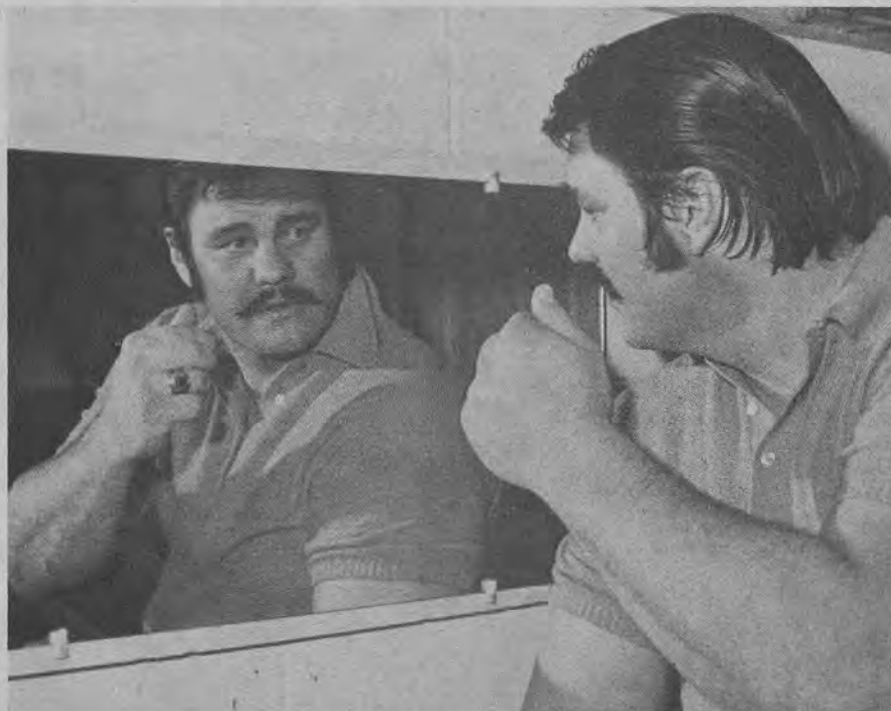
...BLACKJACK MULLIGAN claims: "PAUL JONES left the mid-Atlantic region because he could not take the pressure. There is so much top competition in the area, Jones could not cut it. He is bush league all the way" ... Using an ancient Indian method to cut off pressure to a certain point of the body through a self-hypnotic process, CHIEF JAY STRONGBOW was able to withstand the full pressure of the brain claw when applied by BARON VON RASCHKE. Strongbow refuses to reveal the complex method because if he did, Von Raschke would probably devise a counter method of his own.

Has Wahoo flipped his lid? Believe it or not WAHOO McDANIEL wants a handicap match against Greg Valentine and RIC FLAIR! We feel he's taking his life into his own hands, but the Indian says, "I do not fear either one of them. I will render them both unconscious in less than 15 minutes!" ... SUPERSTAR GRAHAM battled NWA champion HARLEY RACE in St. Louis, Missouri. A veteran observer at the match said

he never saw Graham wrestle so well. He further stated if the match had not been halted by the time limit, Race would be an ex-champion today ... It's true: MIL MASCARAS and JOSE LOTHARIO



**BOB BACKLUND**



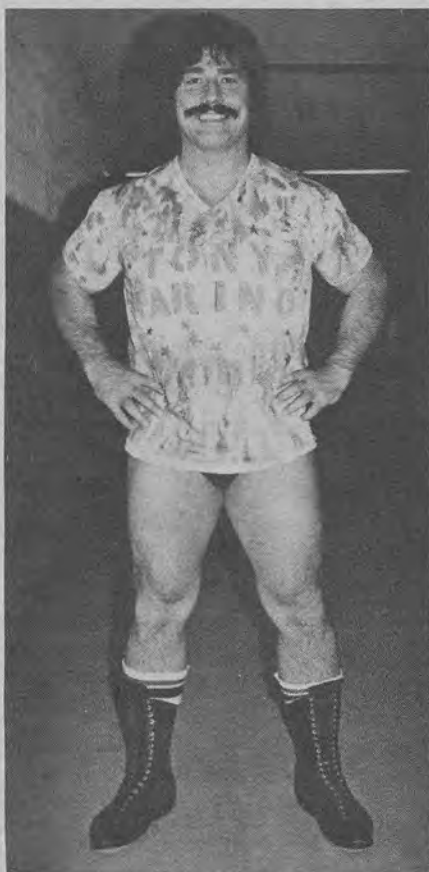
**BLACKJACK MULLIGAN**

have split. But fear not, fans of the sensational Mexican duo—they will reunite as soon as Mil completes the movie he is making in Mexico City ... MIKE GRAHAM cannot understand how the Florida Wrestling commission went ahead and held a tournament to determine a new Florida champion, while he was in Japan. Had the tournament been held just a few days later, Mike would have been able to compete. Considering his importance to the Florida wrestling scene, it is understandable why Mike is hurt. But Mike must realize that the title was vacated shortly after he went to Japan. The commission felt that in the best interest of the sport—it must fill the void immediately ... As you probably know by now, BUDDY WOLFF was the winner in that tournament, edging out STEVE KEIRN in the finals ... BOBO BRAZIL is headed to the mid-Atlantic area ... ANGELO MOSCA boasts he holds clear-cut victories over both PEDRO MORALES and PETER MAIVIA.



# N' NEWS

Bill Apter  
reporting...



**TONY MARINO**

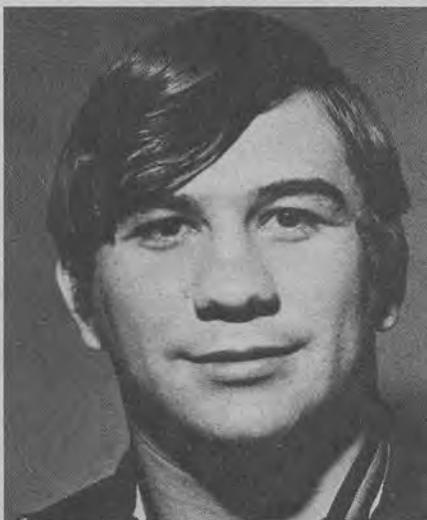
In a sudden turnabout, TONY MARINO has announced his days of scientific grappling are over. Tony has become a feared rulebreaker and recently went so far as to turn on his partner DOM DeNUCCI! . . . Despite threats by SCOTT CASEY, IVAN PUTSKI and CIEN CARAS, BRUISER BRODIE still holds a grip on the American Heavyweight crown . . . BULL RAMOS has entered the Texas mat wars eager to renew his feud against JOSE LOTHARIO . . . JIM BRUNZELL had his long-awaited wish—a match against BOBBY HEENAN. When the dust cleared, Heenan was a gory mess and Brunzell a satisfied winner.

SHOHEI BABA is in the United States negotiating with ANDRE THE GIANT for their proposed showdown. This is the ninth time these two have tried to come to terms. Perhaps this will be the final meeting . . . EDOUARD CARPENTIER



**IVAN PUTSKI**

and his tag team partner, RAYMOND ROUGEAU, are calling it quits for a while because of individual commitments. It appears they have signed to wrestle each other! . . . MIGHTY IGOR was well on the way to winning the U.S. title from BLACKJACK MULLIGAN until the huge Texan sliced up Igor's forehead with a can opener and was disqualified . . . DUSTY RHODES let his temper get the best of him in his most recent title match against HARLEY RACE. Dusty was sent back to the showers after slugging the referee when he was told to break a choke hold he had on the champion . . . The battle of the strongmen takes place shortly when KEN PATERA squares off against "Polish Power" IVAN PUTSKI.



**JERRY BRISCO**



**DUSTY RHODES**

We still have no word as to the whereabouts of TERRY FUNK. Even a lengthy talk with DORY FUNK JR. failed to turn up any clues as to where he is . . . MAD DOG VACHON says he is fed up with wrestling semi-final matches in the AWA and warns promoters he will start crippling opponents unless they give him main events . . . ABDULLAH THE BUTCHER has devised a new nervehold which is the most devastating maneuver he has ever used. JERRY BRISCO was nearly crippled by Abdullah after the Sudanese madman used the new hold during a recent match. "Had he used full pressure, Brisco would never have been able to wrestle again," a spokesman for Abdullah said.

On March 15, wrestling lost one of its greatest stars, ANTONINO ROCCA. Be sure to see "The Story Behind the Headline" in this edition for details about the loss of this great man and highlights of his career. □



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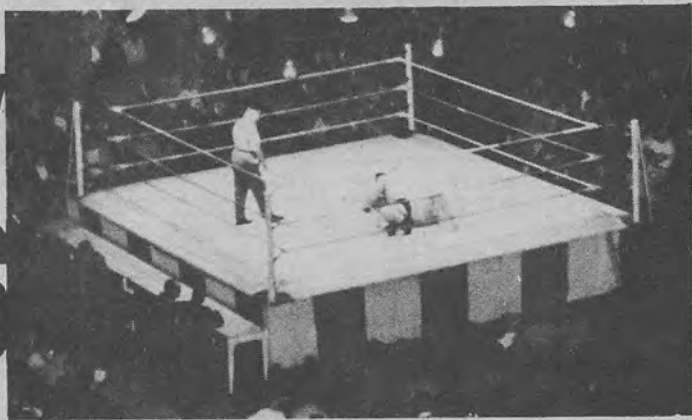
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# SINCERELY YOURS



To fault either Bockwinkle or Stevens for the break-up would be nearly impossible. They are not to blame. And if they were smart, they would patch up the rift between them, join forces, and destroy Bobby Heenan. If they got together, they could probably regain their tag team title from Duncum and Lanza. Of course, this would mean Nick might have to relinquish his own title, but wouldn't it be worth it? After all, considering the slave-like contract under which Heenan now has Bockwinkle, anything would be an improvement in Nick's life.

DAVID RAVINO  
Gary, Ind.

## SOME FRIEND

I was shocked and dismayed to read, "Bockwinkle and Stevens Are Enemies, and Bobby Heenan Is To Blame!" (April 1977). Heenan should be ashamed of what he did to split up two men who had been friends for years. There are very few things in this life as precious as friendship. But try explaining an abstract concept like that to a clod like Heenan.

The friendly feud between Jay Strongbow (above) and Bruno Sammartino could be ended if Chief had a title shot. However, who knows when the feud between Bockwinkle (bottom left) and Ray Stevens (below) will ever be resolved?

## SHOULD BE RESPECTED

The opinion of Dan Shocket in writing "Bodyslams and Pinfalls" should be respected, even though most wrestling fans won't agree with him. A man is entitled to his own opinion be he crazy or be he sane.

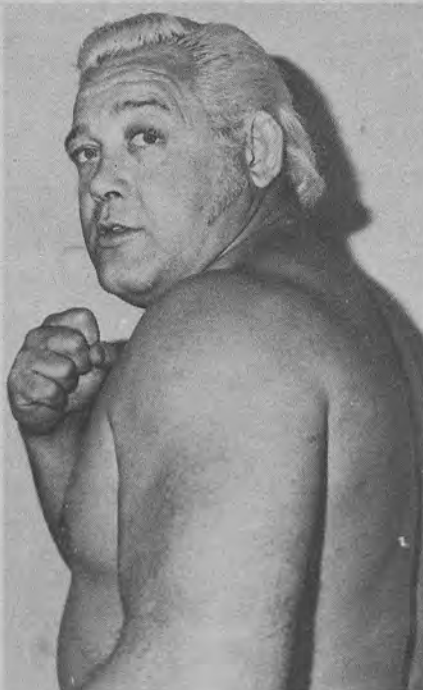
TONY GRISWALD  
Philadelphia, Pa.

## FRIENDLY FEUD

We should all feel pity for Chief Jay Strongbow. He is a man of rare courage and ability, yet he has been continually denied a chance to wrestle Bruno Sammartino for the WWWF title. It is an outrage, but nothing can be done at this point to change the situation.

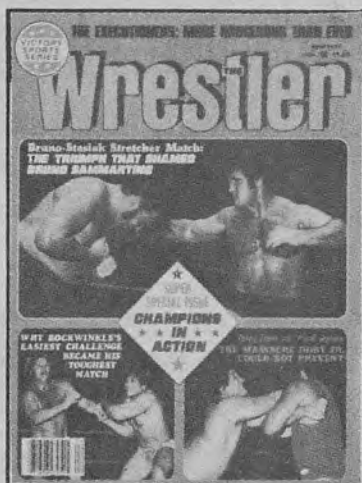
After reading "Jay Strongbow's 'Friendly Feud' with Bruno Sammartino" (April 1977), I gained even more respect for the man. He realizes he will never have a chance to win the title he so sorely covets, yet he has found a way to satisfy

(Continued on page 48)





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210 Estado Way N.E.  
St. Petersburg, FL 33704  
Enjoys sports. Dusty Rhodes his favorite. Likes good and bad guys. Anyone for PP's.



**CARMINE COMPANA (12)**  
468 Court Street  
Brooklyn, NY 11231  
Enjoys baseball. Bruno Sammartino his favorite. Likes good guys. Girls for pen pals.



**JOAN GARTNER (18)**  
120 N. Oak Park Ave.  
Oak Park, IL 60301  
Collects glass animals. Dick the Bruiser her favorite. Likes good guys. Anyone for PP's.



**TERRY MORONEY (14)**  
RD 1  
Oxford, PA 19363  
Likes sports. Jay Strongbow his favorite. Likes good guys. Girls for pen pals.



**GABRIELE TIBESIA (16)**  
41 Kirkwood Road  
Port Washington, NY 11050  
Enjoys baseball. Jack Brisco her favorite. Likes good guys. Girls for pen pals.



**TEDDY BRYAN (8)**  
212 E. Devonshire  
Winston-Salem, NC 27107  
Likes fishing. Wahoo McDaniel his favorite. Likes good guys. Anyone for PP's.



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2266 - 81 Street  
Brooklyn, NY 11212  
Rides bikes. Bruno Sammartino her favorite. Likes good guys. Girls for pen pals.



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Rides horses. Ron Fuller her favorite. Likes good and bad guys. Anyone for PP's.



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Collects magazines. Tony Garea his favorite. Likes good guys. Anyone for PP's.



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2910 Shady Lawn  
Greensboro, NC 27408  
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Putski her favorite.  
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**ADAM LERMAN (14)**  
6801 19 Avenue  
Brooklyn, NY 11204  
Likes baseball. Mil  
Mascaras his favorite.  
Likes bad guys. Anyone  
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6522 Kensington  
Richmond, VA 23226  
Enjoys sports. Ric  
Flair his favorite.  
Likes good and bad  
guys. Girls for PP's.



**GRACIE BENNETT (11)**  
53 Excelsior Avenue  
Middletown, NY 10940  
Likes rollerskating. Bruno  
Sammartino her favorite.  
Likes good guys. Anyone  
for pen pals.



**CHRIS GARNER (11)**  
936 Miller Street  
Marinette, WI 54143  
Collects stamps. Antonio  
Inoki his favorite. Likes  
good guys. Anyone for  
pen pals.



**DALE LESTAGE (14)**  
P.O. Box 147  
Spiritwood, Sask. Canada  
Likes camping. Bruno  
Sammartino his favorite.  
Likes good and bad guys.  
Girls for pen pals.



**PATRICIA WHITE (16)**  
960 Confederate #B  
Atlanta, GA 30312  
Enjoys baseball. Mr.  
Wrestling II her favorite.  
Likes good guys. Anyone  
for pen pals.



**RANDY DIXON (10)**  
6031 E. Hilltop La.  
Lakeland, FL 33801  
Likes football. Raul  
Mata his favorite.  
Likes good guys.  
Anyone for pen pals.



**TIMOTHY BERRIOS (12)**  
25 Unity Avenue  
Newark, NJ 07106  
Enjoys baseball. Billy  
White Wolf his favorite.  
Likes good guys. Anyone  
for pen pals.



**STEVE GORDON (12)**  
Route 5 Box 1  
Red Hook, NY 12571  
Likes billiards. Billy  
White Wolf his favorite.  
Likes good guys. Girls  
for pen pals.



**ROBERT GONZALES (11)**  
318 56th Street #1  
West New York, NJ 07093  
Enjoys baseball. Bruno  
Sammartino his favorite.  
Likes good guys. Boys  
for pen pals.



**JASON DI LEO (13)**  
3131 Lainer Drive NE  
Atlanta, GA 30319  
Likes boxing. Mark  
Lewin his favorite.  
Likes good guys.  
Anyone for pen pals.



**IRENE GONZALEZ (12)**  
318 56th Street #1  
West New York, NJ 07093  
Likes tennis. Mil  
Mascaras her favorite.  
Likes good guys.  
Boys for pen pals.



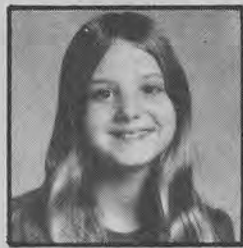
**SHEILA MEADOWS (16)**  
204 Leigh Drive  
Prattville, AL 36067  
Enjoys cooking. Bruno  
Sammartino her favorite.  
Likes bad guys. Boys  
for pen pals.



**MANNY ALIMONDA (16)**  
203 Altantic Avenue  
Blue Point, NY 11715  
Likes basketball. Bruno  
Sammartino his favorite.  
Likes good guys.  
Anyone for PP's.



**JIM PATTON (12)**  
3 Carol Street  
Lynbrook, NY 11563  
Likes hockey. Dusty  
Rhodes his favorite.  
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P.O. Box 442  
Arden, NC 28704  
Enjoys swimming. Wahoo  
McDaniel her favorite.  
Likes good guys.  
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**PATTI BURNHAM (17)**  
1124 Bryn Mawr  
Orlando, FL 32804  
Likes tennis. Wahoo  
McDaniel her favorite.  
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3512 W. 66 Place  
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Enjoys baseball. Ivan  
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# JACK BRISCO'S SECRET WEAPON WILL MAKE HIM CHAMPION AGAIN

What startling change has come over Jack Brisco, convincing all who know him that Jack will soon regain the NWA title?

The answer is sure to please everyone, most of all those who think they know Jack Brisco best!



Jack Brisco first won the NWA title from Harley Race in 1973. He is now confident he can take the belt from Race a second time!

**H**E WALKS INTO an arena like a kid entering an amusement park. It's hard to believe he is going to face some of the roughest men in the world, men intent on breaking every bone in his body. Yet it doesn't bother him. Jack Brisco is the walking definition of a happy man.

"What happened to him?" is the question most often asked by his fellow wrestlers. Not so long ago, perhaps a year before losing the NWA title to Terry Funk, Brisco looked like a man condemned to death. Wrestling was a job that had to be done. Every moment away from the arena was golden, a gift of mercy.

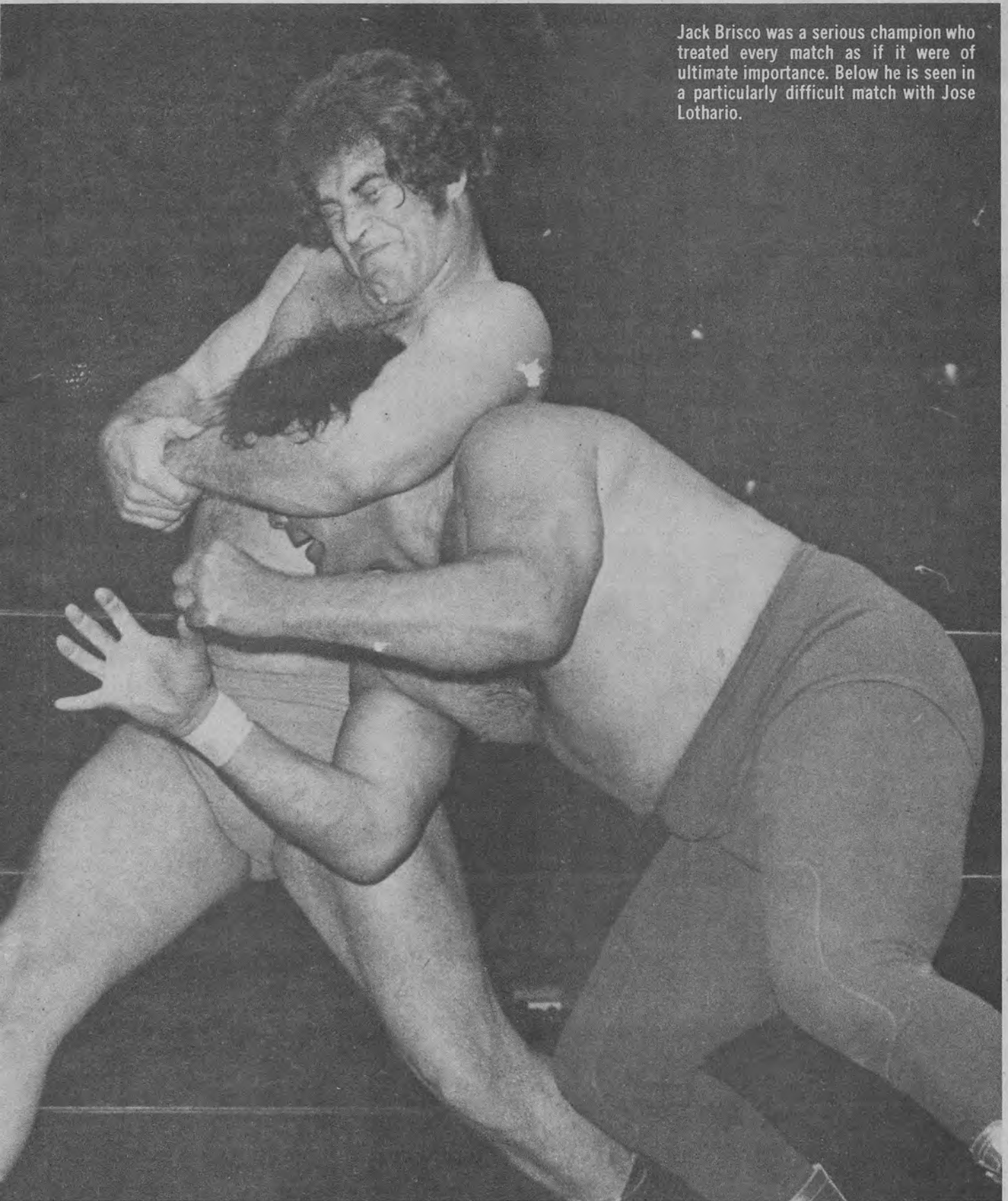
Brisco reached a low point at the time he lost his title to Terry Funk. When asked why he became a wrestler in the first place, Jack would just give a hollow laugh. Though his skills didn't appear diminished, his

spirit was close to being extinguished. He looked like a man caught in a trap from which he couldn't begin to escape.

Then, Terry Funk took his title. Some feared Jack would become a



Jack Brisco was a serious champion who treated every match as if it were of ultimate importance. Below he is seen in a particularly difficult match with Jose Lothario.



broken man. Others, who knew the man, knew better. Those closest to brisco breathed a sigh of relief. They were sorry for his loss, but delighted with the opportunity. All prayed it would not be an opportunity

wasted.

They would not be disappointed. Brisco shed the pressure and torment suffered by all champions. The sacrifices made to keep the title would no longer be necessary.

Brisco was given the chance to rediscover the excitement which had made him pursue a wrestling career in the first place. There was no more hollow laughter.

*(Continued on page 52)*

# HERE IS W FAN OF TH

## GUEST JUDGE: MR. WRESTLING II



Only in wrestling can you get so involved in one wrestler's career that you feel you know him so very well. This has happened to me millions of times.

It will start with a glance at an article about a wrestler and before I know it, it's as if I knew this athlete through his career. You get to grow with this wrestler, experience his triumphs and setbacks. You'll end up caring for this wrestler not only as an athlete, but as a person you watched grow up.

This is what being a wrestling fan is all about. This is what I feel about wrestlers and wrestling.

**MICHELLE BUCHANAN**  
Virginia Beach, Virginia

I WAS TRYING to decide between five different essays when I read the entry by Michelle Buchanan. From that moment on, there was no reason to go any further.

I know of no wrestler I'd respect who wouldn't be moved by this composition. We all want to be respected by the fans. We want them to become involved with us. It may sound like ego, and it probably is, but wrestlers want fans who celebrate victories and mourn defeats. We like knowing our experiences move crowds to delight or tears. Michelle answers a need deep within every wrestler's mind.

Of course, every athlete wants to be respected as a person, not just as a creature able to do certain maneuvers. Michelle says her greatest joy is to follow an athlete's career and share in his success and failure. This is the perfect fan as far as most wrestlers are concerned.

I think the key to this is that Michelle says she'll follow a wrestler even during his failures. That's what makes a real fan. There are a lot of people who'll pat you on the back after an important victory. The ones a wrestler remembers are the fans who stop to say something after a loss. Those are the people we admire and value. It's my pleasure to be able to honor one of them here.

It's interesting that Michelle first starts to care about a wrestler when



# WRESTLING'S FAN OF THE MONTH

she reads something about him in a magazine. This proves she cares about the person more than the athlete. Many of my friends and I often discuss the fact we struggle all our lives to be athletes and then seek out the company of people who treat us like ordinary human beings. I guess after a while we want to take a rest from the wrestling wars. For a fan to sense this need all of us share is a very special thing.

I'd like to add that this was one of the most enjoyable experiences I've had in a long time. Reading the entries to this contest was like meeting many new friends. I think every wrestler should judge this contest just to get a sense of what the fans think and want. I hope to be able to judge it again in the near future.

There were many essays I enjoyed while reading through them. I couldn't even begin to list them all here. I just want everyone to know I learned so much from them that some profound effect will soon take effect. No wrestler could read these essays without being changed by them.

I'd like to thank **INSIDE WRESTLING** for the opportunity to be a judge in this contest. Also, thanks are in order for letting me make copies of 25 essays. These compositions I want to keep because they touched me deeply. There are many wonderful wrestling fans in the world. I'll do my best to live up to your trust. □

## HOW YOU CAN BECOME WRESTLING'S FAN OF THE MONTH

If you think you deserve this honor, simply send us a photo of yourself and a 100-word essay telling why you're the best fan. This can take any form from straight narrative to a poem. Photos cannot be returned.

The entries will be judged by our staff and a different wrestling star each month. The grappler will also tell why he voted the way he did, which may be the most revealing article about a wrestler you'll ever read.

Remember, the contest is called "Wrestling Fan of the Month," not "A Wrestler's Fan of the Month." This contest is intended to honor a sport, not a particular participant.

So while we admire those who work long and selflessly on their favorite wrestler's fan magazine, that's not a qualification in this contest. Fan club workers are rightfully honored elsewhere.

Without the fan, wrestling would wither and die. Because of the fans, wrestling has become the most popular sport in the world. It's about time the fans receive the recognition they deserve.

As soon as possible, send your photos and essays to:

**TOP FAN CONTEST**  
**c/o INSIDE WRESTLING**  
**Box 58**  
**Rockville Centre, N.Y.**  
**11571**

# WANTED



## ***A MAN TO DEFEAT SAMMARTINO***

**H**OW DO YOU find men to conquer a living legend? If you come up with the answer, be sure to contact Dan Napoli. He's the first to admit he can use all the help available.

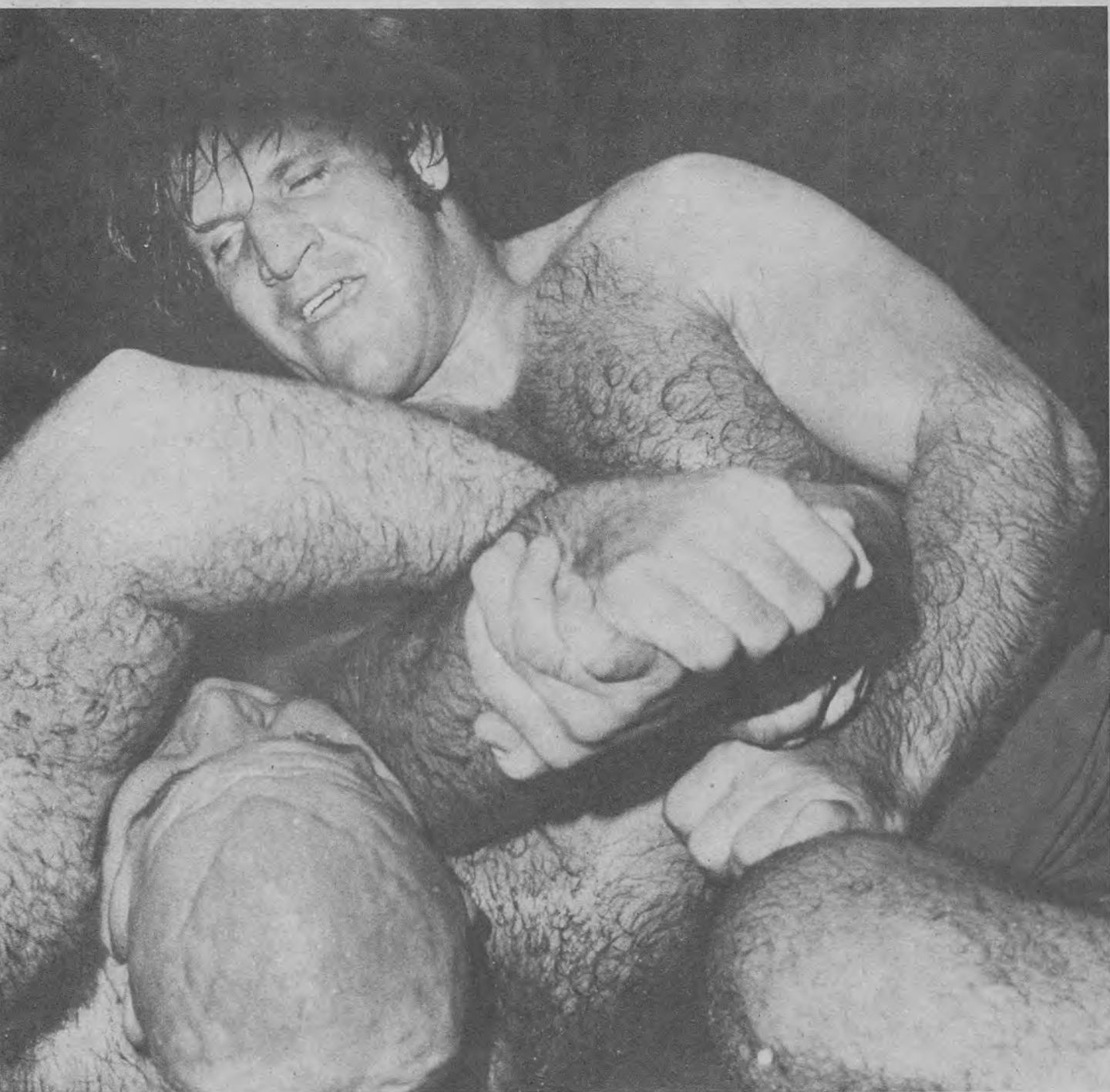
It's Napoli's job to scout opponents for WWWF champion

Bruno Sammartino. His recommendations are often the final word on who gets the chance to wrestle Sammartino. How does a man find foes for a champion who has dominated the sport for more than a decade? It isn't easy.

Dan's office is in New York City,

though he's only there two days a week at the most. Other times, the man is on the road, scouting wrestlers as possible opponents for the champion. Napoli can't begin to say how many reports he has written up in the wee hours of the morning so the commissioners can





**He's the man nobody knows, but he is one of the most important people in wrestling. Everyone curries his favor and it's in his power to make a man's dreams come true. If Bruno Sammartino loses his title, this man will be responsible!**

examine his findings the next day. The longer he stays on the job, the harder it becomes. The longer Sammartino stays champion, the harder it becomes.

"Why does Sammartino have to be so good? Napoli says with a

laugh. "There must be a hundred fine wrestlers who just aren't good enough. I've seen them all. These guys want a title shot more than life. But they just don't have what it takes.

"An opponent for Sammartino

must be incredibly strong and very smart. One or the other isn't good enough. The man has to be able to use his strength intelligently. If not, Bruno will tear him apart. He's done it before. Some guys look smart but

*(Continued on page 54)*

# ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ THE STORY ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ BEHIND THE HEADLINE ★



Vol. II No. 1



**A**NTONINO ROCCA, THE man who revolutionized professional wrestling, is dead. On March 15, 1977, the entire wrestling fraternity mourned the loss of this all-time great superstar.

During a successful wrestling appearance in Puerto Rico, the 53-year-old Rocca suddenly became ill. Upon his return to the United States, Rocca was admitted to New York's Roosevelt Hospital. He died a few weeks later. Doctors listed the cause of

death as a urinary infection.

Brought to the United States in 1949 by promoter Toots Mondt, Rocca's flying style captured the hearts of fans young and old. One of the maneuvers he invented, the flying dropkick, became his trademark. It was imitated by thousands of other wrestlers shortly after he made it famous. Today it is a common sight in matches all over the globe.

Perhaps Rocca's most cherished possession was the love the fans gave him. A wonderful humanitarian, Rocca would do anything to help a

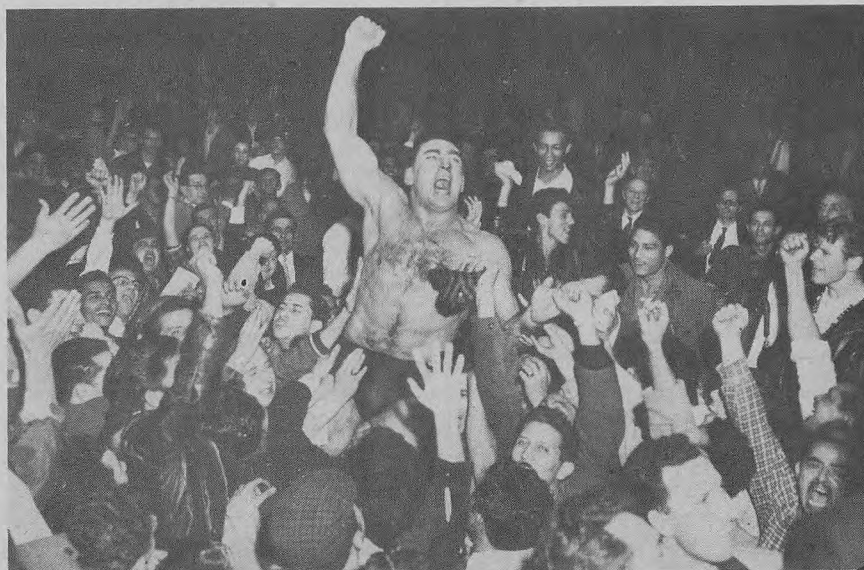
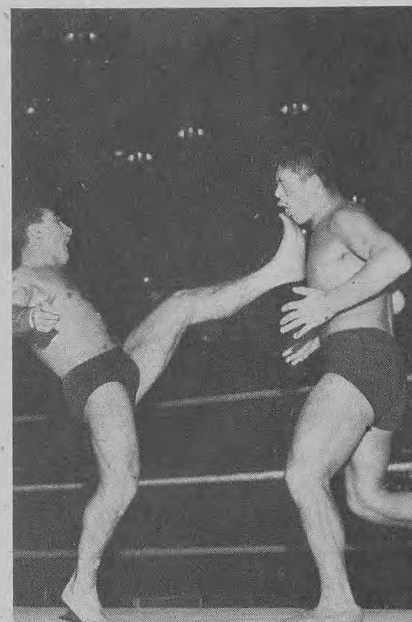
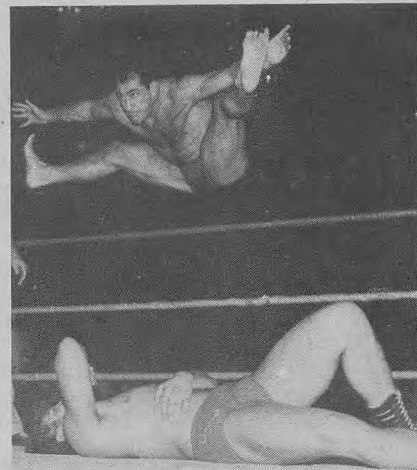
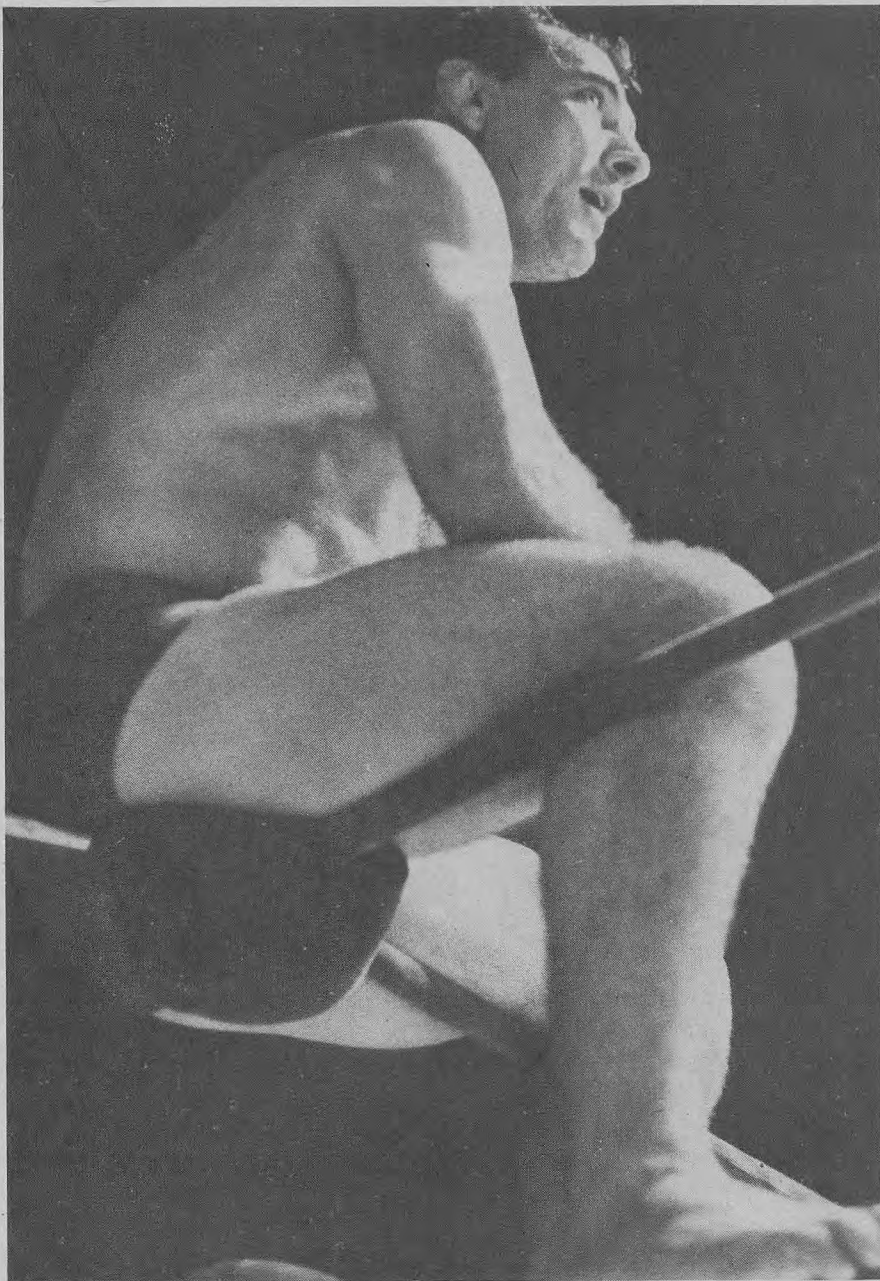
fan—or anyone else in need.

Although he never won the world championship, he did hold a list of single titles that still stands out as among the most impressive in history. Together with Miguel Perez, Rocca went on to hold many tag team titles.

His matches against Buddy Rogers, Jerry Graham, Edouard Carpentier, and Bruno Sammartino were classics. Fans today have yet to see matches that can compare with them.

A great loss to the world, Antonino Rocca is dead. But his legend will live on forever. □





# HOTSEAT

## SUPERSTAR GRAHAM: "BRUNO'S BELT LOOKS GOOD AROUND MY WAIST!"

INTERVIEW CONDUCTED  
BY RANDY GORDON

**H**E IS LOVED and hated all over the world. He is as famous for his peacock wardrobe as he is for his incredible wrestling skills. He is egomaniacal, dangerous, cruel, yet he is a remarkable athlete, and one of the strongest men in the world. His body is envied by bodybuilders as well as wrestling fans. He is Superstar Billy Graham.

**Q:** Welcome to the "Hotseat."

**A:** Somebody had to do something to raise the quality of your magazine. My gems of genius will more than make up for the drivel usually printed.

**Q:** We'll be forever in your debt. Now, let's get down to wrestling. You intend to make another attempt to take Bruno Sammartino's title. You've already failed once. Why do you think you'll be more successful this time?

**A:** I don't think it, I know it. I beat Sammartino in most of the

matches we wrestled. He got a few breaks which must have cost him a pretty penny, but you expect referees to be in the bag for Sammartino. I consider my past matches learning experiences. I now know exactly what it takes to kill Sammartino. My manager,

“

**Oh, Bruno's belt will look good around my waist! I'll be even prettier than I am now, if such a thing is possible. How can you improve on perfection?**

”

Grand Wizard, has mapped out the perfect strategy. Oh, Bruno's belt will look good around my waist! I'll be even prettier than I am now, if such a thing is possible. How can you improve on perfection?

**Q:** If we can forget your physical splendor for a moment, I'd still like to talk about wrestling. You've had plenty of chances to win all three of the major world titles. So far, you haven't won any of them. This has led a number of people to say you can't take the pressure.

**A:** They better not say that to my face. And they don't. I can take it as rough as they come. If we had the time, we could go over each match and see how victory was stolen from me in every case. But I couldn't stand you for that long.

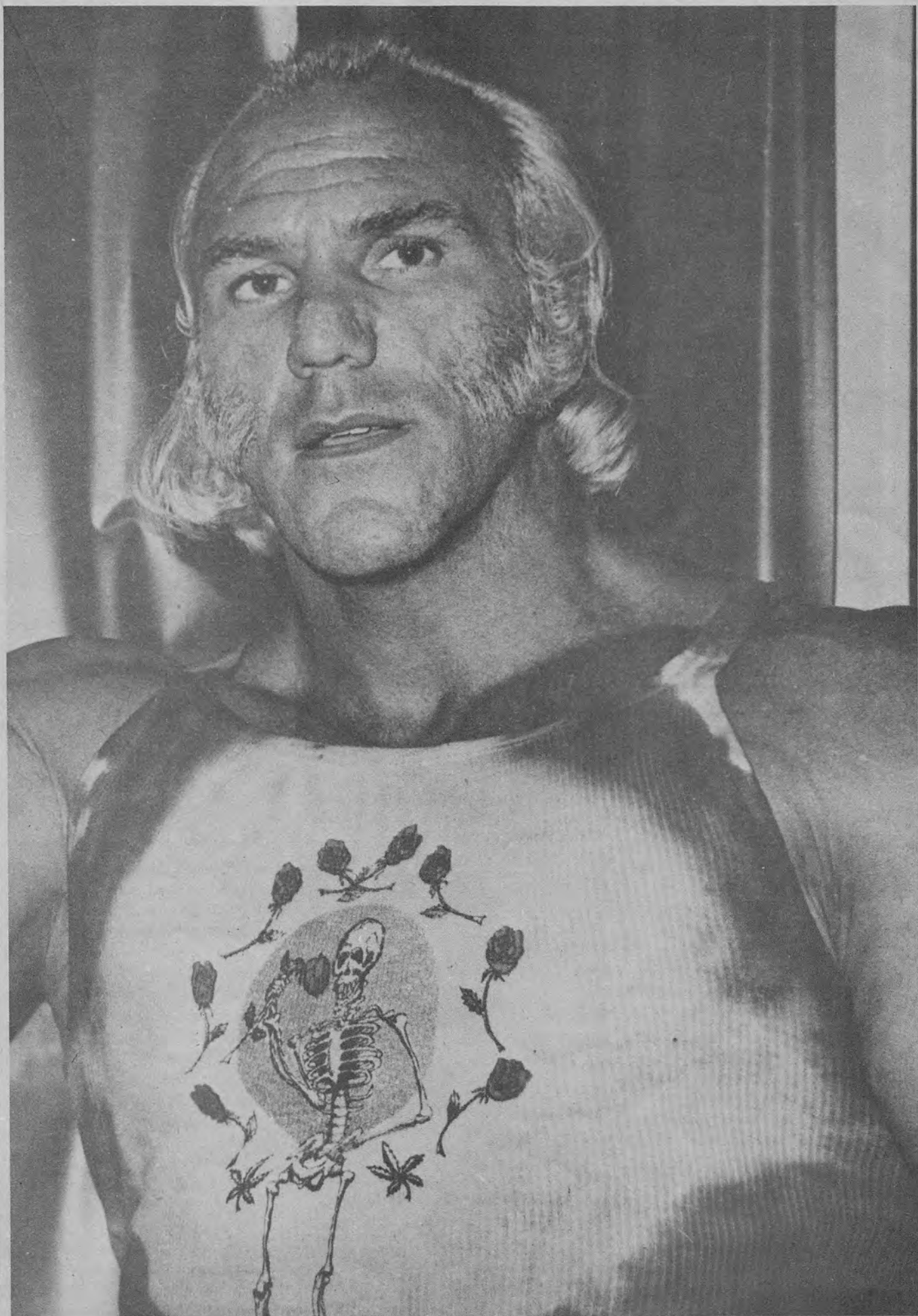
**Q:** Well, we agree on one thing. But getting back to the subject, do you expect people to believe three associations have systematically conspired to keep you from getting a title?

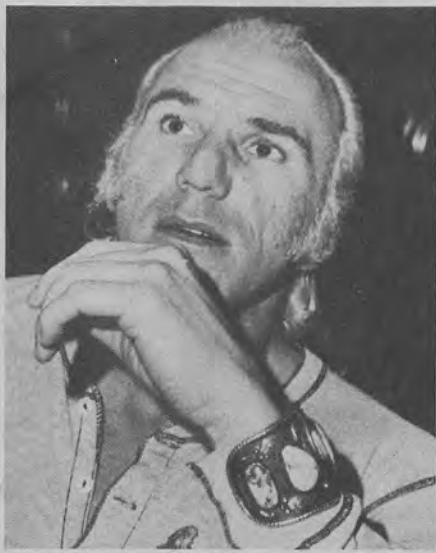
**A:** Facts are facts. There can be no other logical explanation.

**Q:** There can be another logical explanation. You could be unable to function under the pressure of a title match.

**A:** Look, you don't get to my ranking in a sport because you







“

Yeah, tell Sammartino to watch out for my speed. Of course, it'll be too fast for him to do anything about it. But it'll be nice for him to know what finished him.

”

choke. I've beaten the best all over the world. I make more than \$250,000 a year. You don't get where I am today by folding under pressure.

**Q:** If you're so successful already, why take on the added responsibilities of a world title reign?

**A:** So I can stop people from saying stupid things like I fold under pressure. A man's reputation is immortal, living on long after he's dead. I want history to say Billy Graham was the greatest. I don't want any "buts" to destroy my legend. That's why I have to win a title. History demands it.

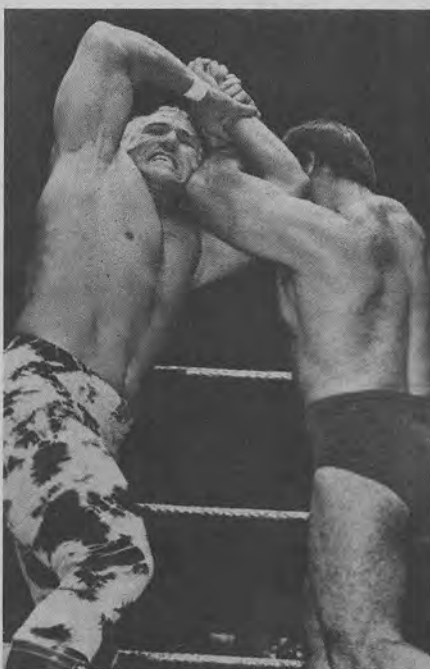
**Q:** Is there any special reason you're going after the WWWF title?

**A:** Well, it'll look best if I'm the man who beats Sammartino. That's going to do a lot for somebody's reputation, and it might as well be mine. For me, this is the right time to be here. Even corrupt referees can't save him anymore.

**Q:** Can you reveal any of your new strategy for defeating Sammartino.



Superstar Billy Graham has battled the top men in the WWWF, including popular Ivan Putski (above), and the champion, Bruno Sammartino (below).



**A:** Would you believe me if I told you?

**Q:** Probably not, but try me anyway.

**A:** Well, I won't get into specifics. You don't have the intelligence to understand me. But I can tell you a few generalities. I'll be depending on my strength mostly. However, my phenomenal speed will also be used to great advantage. Many people don't appreciate how swift my movements are. They'll sure learn quickly enough. Yeah, tell Sammartino to watch out for my speed. Of course, it'll be too fast for him to do anything about it. But it'll be nice for him to know what finished him.

**Q:** Have you mastered any new maneuvers?

**A:** No comment.

**Q:** Has Wizard done anything differently about your training?

**A:** He's done a couple of things, but nothing spectacular. Most



important, he's set a style for my training. In the gym, I'm treated like a champion. I feel like a champion now. I'm going to be a champion soon. Bet on it.

**Q:** Thanks for the tip. If you become champion . . .

**A:** When I become champion.

**Q:** During your projected championship reign, do you plan to do anything special, something the fans should be warned about?



Superstar has been known to overpower Bruno (above and below), yet he has failed in his efforts to win the belt. However, this may soon change.

**A:** I plan great changes. First of all, when I enter an arena, I expect the fans to fall to their knees. Then, I want Wizard to have final say over my opponents and the referees. No match will take place without Grand Wizard in my corner, strictly for moral support.

**Q:** Who do you plan to have as opponents?

**A:** I'll leave that up to Wizard. I don't care who I wrestle as long as there's a lot of money on the line. I plan to retire a fabulously wealthy man. Wizard is going to do that for me.

**Q:** Are there any names you can reveal as prospective foes?

**A:** Sure. I know that Ivan Putski, Chief Jay Strongbow, Bob Backlund, and Tony Garea will fall to me. Also, any unpopular wrestler who wants a shot can have it. Ivan Koloff, either Executioner, and Doug Gilbert will all get a chance. They'll all be defeated, of course. No one will take my title.

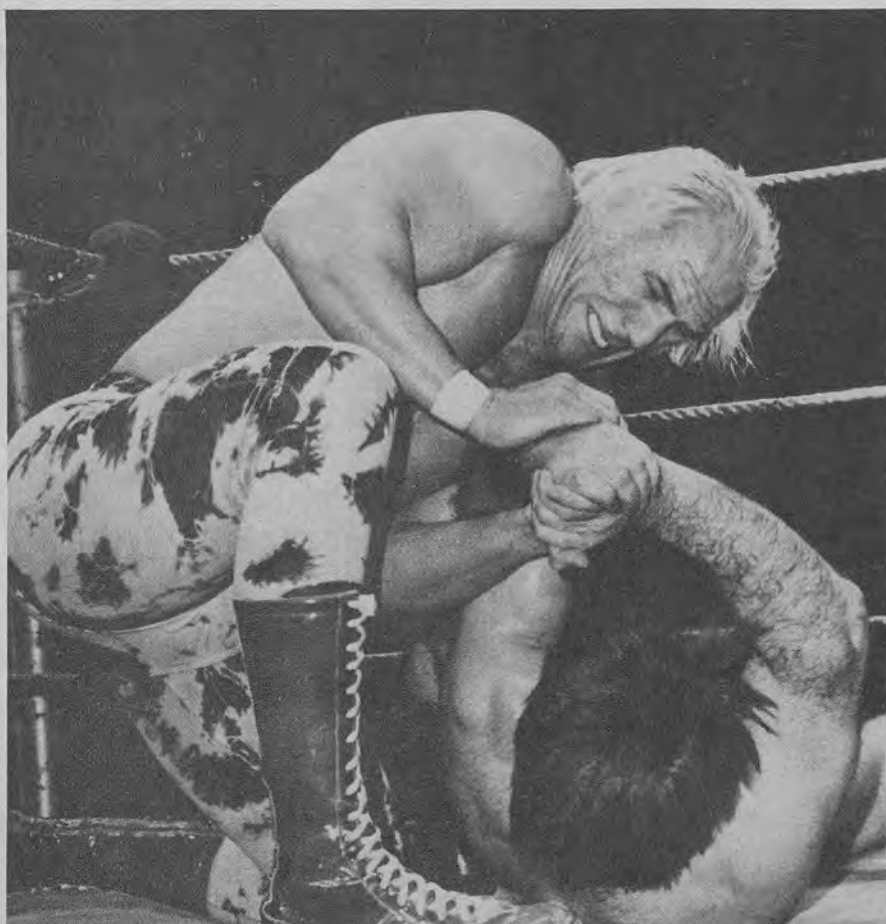
**Q:** Do you plan to challenge the NWA or AWA champion for sole claim to the world championship?



“

**Naturally, I wouldn't back down from any challenge made by a lesser champion. As far as I'm concerned, I'll already be the only champion of the world.**

”



**A:** See how easy it is to have a discussion about me being champion? But to answer your question, they'll have to challenge me. I'll be the one everyone will consider the king. Naturally, I wouldn't back down from any challenge made by a lesser champion. As far as I'm concerned, I'll already be the only champion of the world.

**Q:** Your friends claim that you're a much more sensitive, complex person than you've revealed in this interview. They say the bragging is just a mask for a desperate desire for success. Some claim a title may allow you to be yourself. The pressure to prove your superiority will be removed.

**A:** I don't know what you're talking about. I don't want to discuss it any further. If you want an interview with my friends, talk to them.

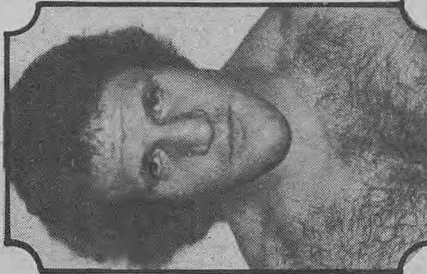
**Q:** Well, I guess that's it then. Thank you very much. □

# INSIDE WRESTLING'S

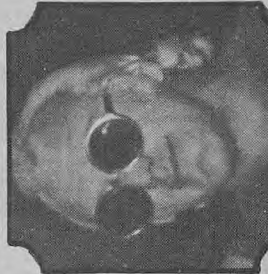
# OFFICIAL RATINGS

These Ratings Are Compiled With The Assistance Of Top Wrestlers, Promoters, And Reporters. They Are Universally Accepted As Official

## World Wide Wrestling Federation



Champion: BRUNO SAMMARTINO



1—SUPERSTAR GRAHAM

## American Wrestling Association



Champion: NICK BOCKWINKLE



1—RAY STEVENS

## National Wrestling Alliance



Champion: HARLEY RACE

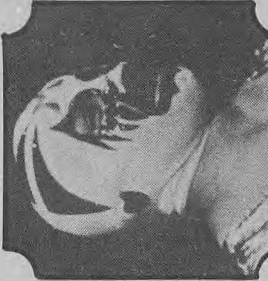


1—DUSTY RHODES

## Most Popular Wrestlers

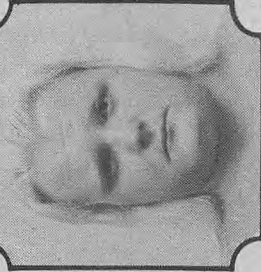


1—BRUNO SAMMARTINO



2—MIL MASCARAS

## Tag Teams



1—GREG VALENTINE & RIC FLAIR



2—ABDULLAH THE BUTCHER

## Most Hated Wrestlers



1—SUPERSTAR GRAHAM



2—ABDULLAH THE BUTCHER





2—IVAN PUTSKI



3—BARON VON  
RASCHKE



4—BOB BACKLUND

- 5—KEN PATERA
- 6—CHIEF JAY  
STRONGBOW
- 7—GEORGE  
STEELE
- 8—LARRY  
ZBYSZKO
- 9—TONY GAREA
- 10—CARLOS  
ROCHA



2—VERNE GAGNE



3—JIM BRUNZELL

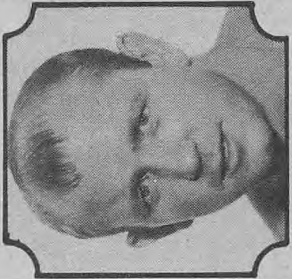


4—GREG GAGNE

- 5—CRUSHER
- 6—PEDRO  
MORALES
- 7—ANGELO  
MOSCA
- 8—SUPER  
DESTROYER
- 9—PETER MAIVIA
- 10—MAD DOG  
VACHON



2—JACK BRISCO



3—DORY FUNK JR.

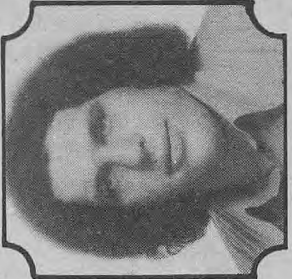


4—TERRY FUNK

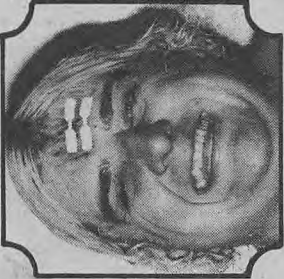
- 5—BLACKJACK  
MULLIGAN
- 6—THE SHEIK
- 7—WAHOO  
McDANIEL
- 8—DICK SLATER
- 9—MR. WRESTLING  
II
- 10—PAUL JONES



3—IVAN PUTSKI



4—ANDRE THE  
GIANT



5—DUSTY RHODES

- 6—BOB BACKLUND
- 7—CHIEF JAY  
STRONGBOW
- 8—JACK BRISCO
- 9—LARRY ZBYSZKO
- 10—BRUISER



2—STRONGBOW  
& WHITE WOLF



3—BOBBY DUNCUM  
& BLACKJACK  
LANZA



4—THE ANDERSON  
BROTHERS

5—JACK & JERRY  
BRISCO

6—THE HOLLYWOOD  
BLONDS

7—BLACK

GORDMAN &  
GOLIATH

8—THE VALIANT  
BROTHERS

9—THE

EXECUTIONERS  
10—PAT PATTERSON  
& PEPPER  
GOMEZ



3—OX BAKER



4—THE SHEIK



5—KEN PATERA

6—DICK SLATER

7—BARON VON  
RASCHKE

8—BRUISER

BRODIE

9—BLACKJACK

LANZA

10—STAN STASIAK



**Andre's  
Answer to  
His Fans:**

# REA I'LL

**F**ROM ALL OVER the world, from people in every walk of life, the pleas came to Andre the Giant. Letter after letter spoke of the fans' love of the gargantuan grappler. So moved by this unprecedented outpouring of affection, Andre the Giant has decided to remain a wrestler for as long as the fans wish him to!

"I still haven't finished reading all the letters," Andre says, "because often I'm too choked up to continue. A man can't read with tears in his eyes. When I think I almost deserted these wonderful people in a state of anger, it makes me sick to my stomach. There's nothing that can make me desert them now. I'll do whatever they want.

"It would be impossible for me to recount all the many wonderful things the fans wrote. I can give you a few examples, not necessarily the best, but ones showing why I can never leave the fans. No man could refuse these wonderful people.

"Here, look at this. A new friend of mine, Ricardo Nova, of Newark, New Jersey, wrote, 'I have always loved your way of wrestling and the way you defeat men we, the fans, want to be defeated most. When I read you wanted to leave wrestling, I had to write. Please don't leave. I hope you make a wise choice, whatever it is.' I have made a wise

**The response has been overwhelming. The pleas have been answered. The fans have convinced Andre the Giant to remain in wrestling. Their outpouring of love has renewed the top mat star's determination and dedication**



# CH OUT AND BE THERE!

choice, Ricardo, thanks to you and thousands like you.

"These fans are all so wonderful!" Andre exclaimed, as he reached his hand deep into one of the many baskets filled with the fans' letters. "Here is another sent by one of the finest people I've ever met." Andre opened this letter and read, "'I think you should stay in wrestling. I would also like to see you on television. You were great on the *Six Million Dollar Man*. But I couldn't enjoy it much if I knew it meant you couldn't wrestle.' That's from a friend named Craig Osborne from Nova Scotia, Canada.

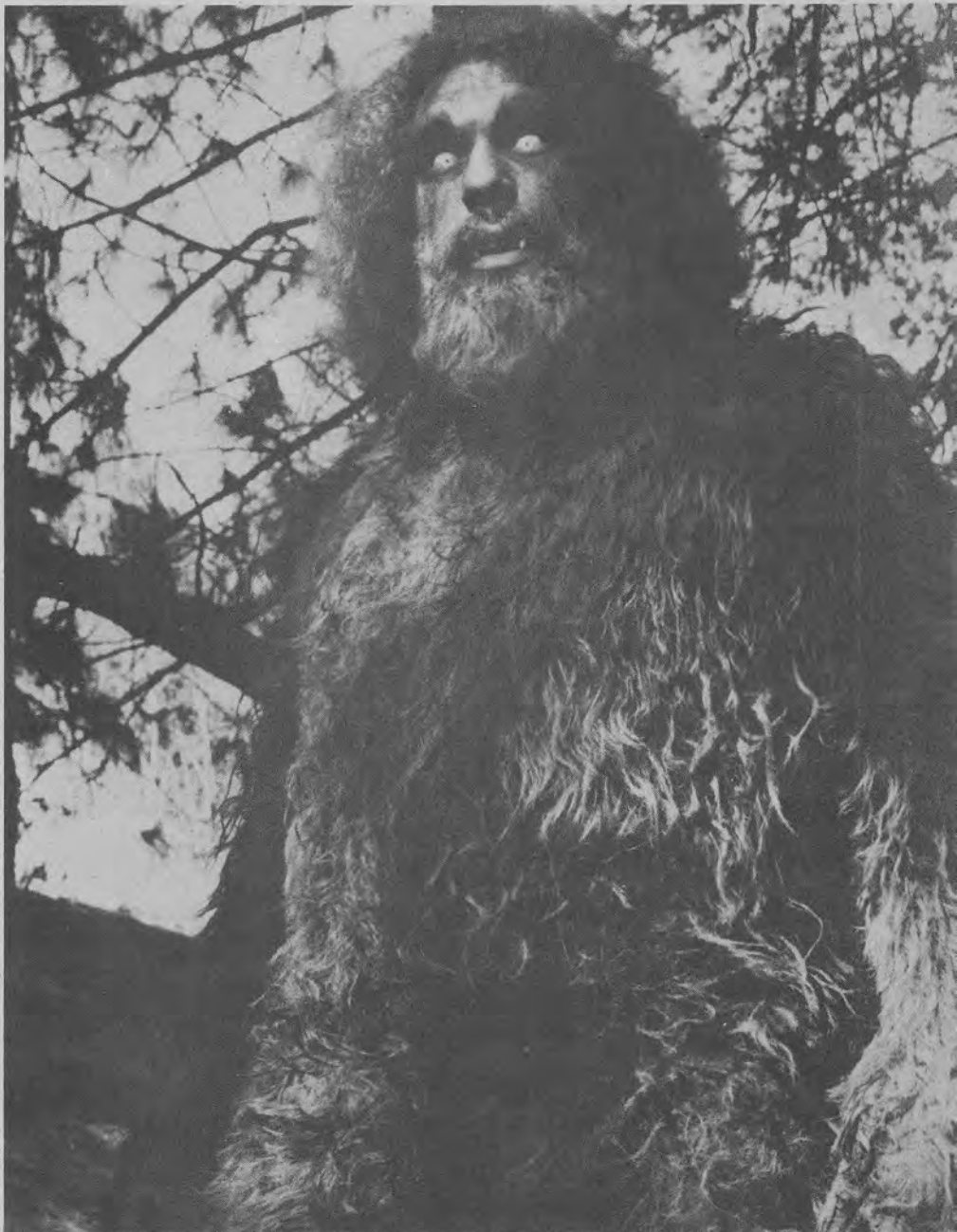
"I get that a lot, people who respect both my careers as wrestler and actor. These aren't selfish people who want me all to themselves. They're so much more than that. They want me to be true to myself, which is to be a wrestler. These people know that."

Andre reached into another basket and pulled out a third letter. It was in a pink envelope, obviously from a woman fan. Andre is adored by women all over the world. Yet, this woman proved to be a serious and dedicated wrestling fan.

"I know it's your decision," Faith McDonnel, Berwood, West Virginia, wrote, "but I for one will be awfully disappointed if you quit. I am one of your fans and love to watch you. I respect and love you as a wrestler and I'd really hate to see you leave the sport. I don't really watch movies that much, but wrestling I never miss.

"I don't believe making movies is for you. I know you would miss the sport you love so much and

(Continued on page 58)



Andre the Giant appears as "Bigfoot," the character he made famous in an episode of "The Six-Million Dollar Man." Andre was about to go into acting on a full time basis and quit wrestling—until the fans stepped in and demanded he stay in the sport he loves.

# TOP WRESTLE

## YOUR QUESTION

**The "Question of the Month" is:**

**"Out of all the wrestlers you know, who would you want as your tag team partner?"**

**Submitted by:  
Louise Styron;  
Angier, N.C.  
and  
Mike Weinreich;  
Old Bridge, N.J.**



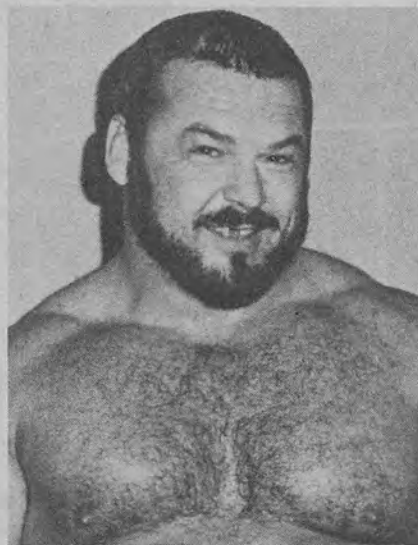
**JIM VALIANT**

"Of course, my brother Johnny is still the greatest partner any man could ever have. But if I had the chance, just once I would like to try teaming with Ric Flair. The kid has a lot of talent. We might work well together."



**ANDRE THE GIANT**

Though I have successfully teamed with many men, none have made absolutely ideal partners. In any case, I really do not like tag team wrestling. Therefore, I have no choice as an ideal partner."



**IVAN PUTSKI**

"If I had my choice of any man I would like to team with, my choice would be Mighty Igor. Besides the fact that he and I are both Polish, it would prove once and for all we are not the same person!"

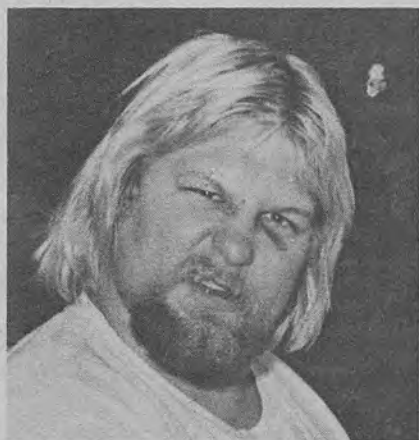


**PAUL JONES**

"My choice as an ideal tag team partner is Wahoo McDaniel. I must admit to respecting and admiring the man's abilities. I also think we make a dynamite team, and we would be unbeatable!"

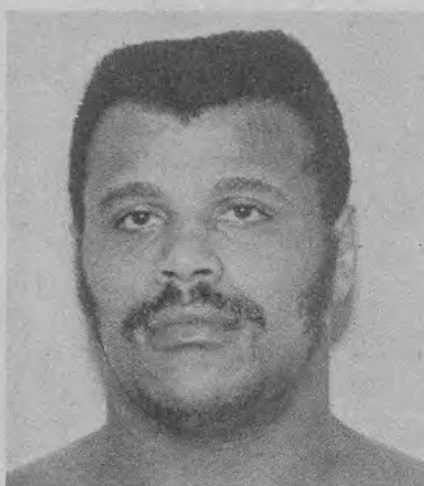


# RS ANSWER OF THE MONTH



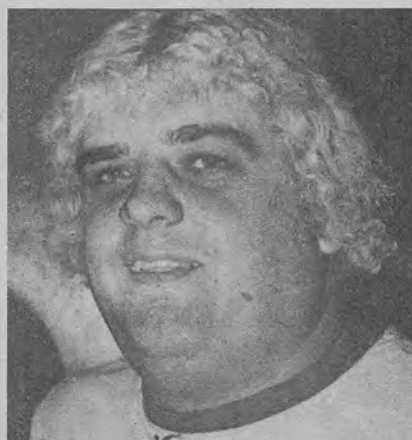
## STAN HANSEN

"It would be difficult for me to pick the ideal tag team partner. However, of those wrestlers I know, probably the best one to help me out would be Bruiser Brodie. Now we would make an interesting team."



## ROCKY JOHNSON

"There is one man I have always wanted to team with, though I know it is impossible. That man is Mil Mascaras. He is just fantastic. I can't think of another wrestler who is as skilled as he is."



## DUSTY RHODES

"My dream tag team partner is WWF champion Bruno Sammartino. He is just great, and I would love, just once, to have the opportunity to actually wrestle in a tag team match with him."



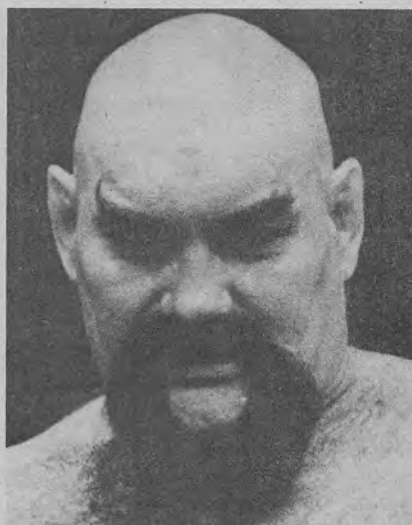
## BOB BACKLUND

"I've teamed with several wrestlers, but I think the best was Steve Keirn. His style and mine are very similar. We work well together, and I think we can really understand each other in the ring."



## DICK SLATER

"If I had the chance, I would like to team with the new NWA champion, Harley Race. Race has a lot of qualities I admire in a partner, though I don't always agree with his methods. Still, it would be interesting."



## OX BAKER

"I really like the style that young man, Bob Roop, has. He has a lot of class, and I like that. He has some good maneuvers which can really cripple opponents. I like that, too." □

# "VALENTINE!" —

## THE NAME THAT TURNS WAHOO INTO A KILLER

**H**ATE ONE, hate them all. That could be "Wahoo's Law of Relations," at least as it applies to the Valentine clan.

Wahoo McDaniel has despised the Valentines ever since meeting Johnny Valentine years ago. The two men wrestled and began one of the bloodiest feuds in wrestling history. No one can point to the moment in the first match when the two men became bitter enemies. The match slowly grew more and more savage. Before anyone could tell why, the two men were at each other's throats. It was like cobra and mongoose, natural enemies battling to the death. Their next match, and each subsequent brawl, made World War II look like a Maypole dance.

Their feud continued throughout the years. Each chapter was written in pain and blood. The entire history will



be remembered by wrestling fans for as long as the sport exists. Many believed the feud ended when Valentine suffered his crippling injury in the airplane accident. Yet, the ending is nowhere in sight.

Johnny's younger brother, Greg Valentine, seems to have taken over. Donning his brother's hatred for Wahoo like a custom-made suit, Greg has kept the feud burning with rage. And for Wahoo, wrestling Greg is like wrestling Johnny. McDaniel will make any sacrifice to gain a victory over Greg.

As might be expected, Johnny gives Greg advice on how to defeat their mutual enemy. And as might be expected when one knows the headstrong Greg, most advice is ignored. Greg Valentine has to learn the hard way. And that way means blood and pain.

It doesn't bother Johnny that his brother only takes advice occasionally. It's a trait that runs in the family.

"When I first started wrestling Wahoo," Johnny recalls, "no one could tell me how to do it. I hated the guy so much—still do—I wanted to do



# The feud goes back years and years through a history of pain and blood. Wahoo McDaniel despises any man with the name "Valentine" and wrestles accordingly. Each match is a battle to the death!

PHOTO BY BILL JANOSIK

it the roughest way I knew. As far as I was concerned, the match might as well have taken place in an alley.

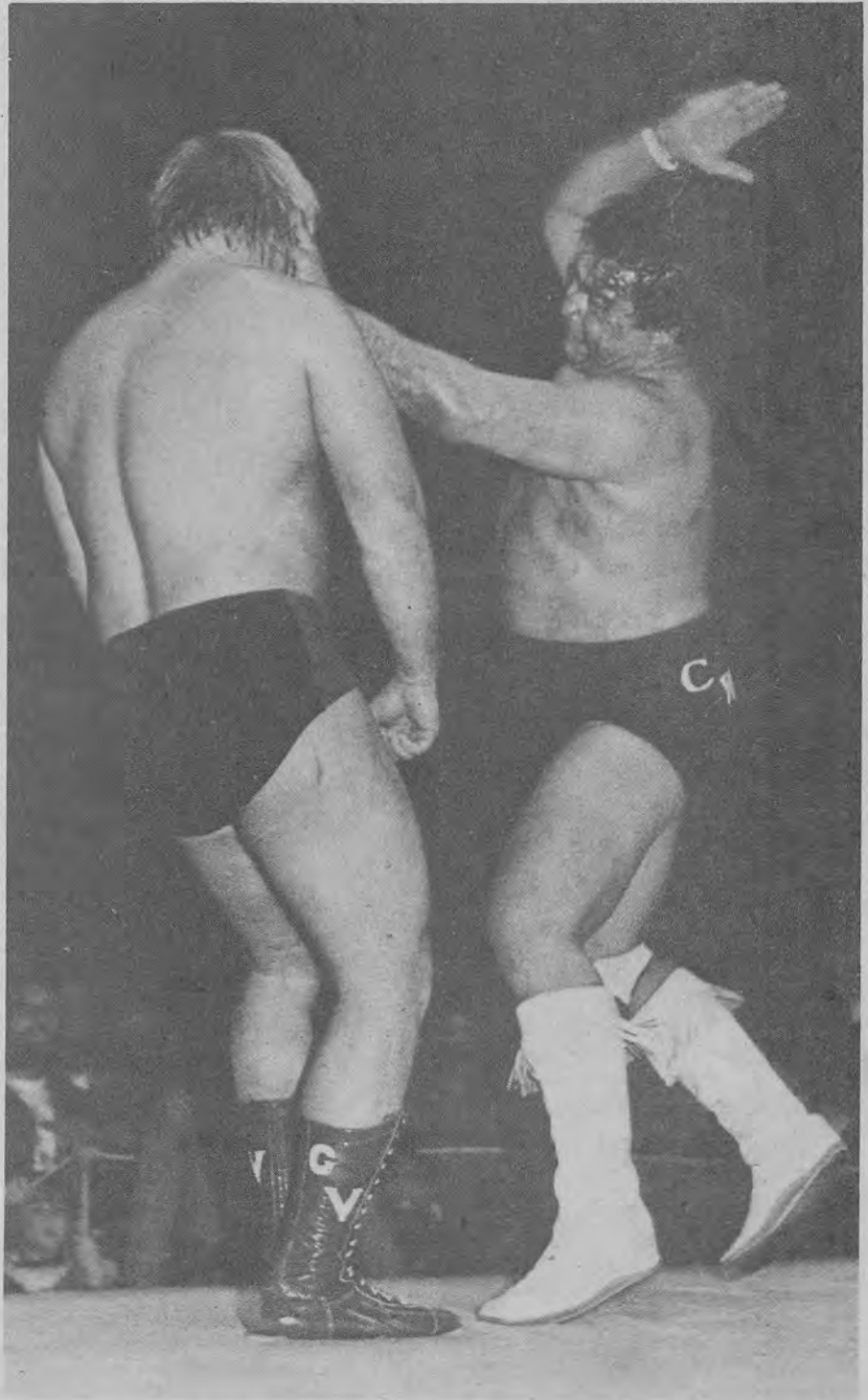
"Well, it didn't take me long to find out how wrong I was. You can do a lot more damage by using wrestling skills than just brawling. And there are a number of holds which can turn McDaniel into putty. I've told Greg what the holds are. When he thinks they'll come in handy, he'll use them. Nothing I can say will make him do it any faster. The man's a Valentine."

Because Greg is a Valentine, McDaniel has sworn to run him out of wrestling. While Wahoo often finds himself embroiled in feuds, there is something different about this one. Even Wahoo realizes this.

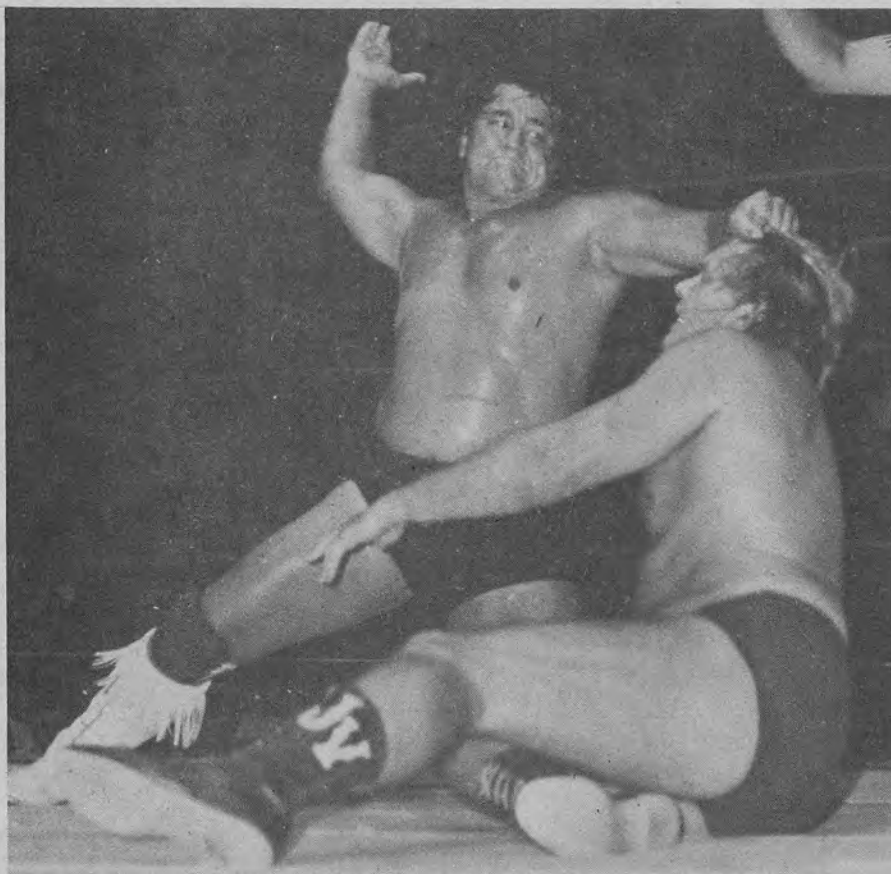
When McDaniel is interviewed, he tries to change the subject when Valentine is mentioned. It isn't intentional. Rather, it is a sign of the confusion Wahoo feels about the subject. When he finally gets around to discussing it, his voice becomes softer and the words come slower.

"I can name over 1,000 reasons why I hate Johnny Valentine now," Wahoo begins, "and each one of them is valid. But I can't recall why I started hating him. It just happened in that first match. No man wants to hate for no reason at all, but something happened that made me want to kill him. I still can't understand it. I've seen the match on film maybe 100 times. I can't see why I reacted like I did. I can't even see why Valentine hated me so quickly! None of it makes sense.

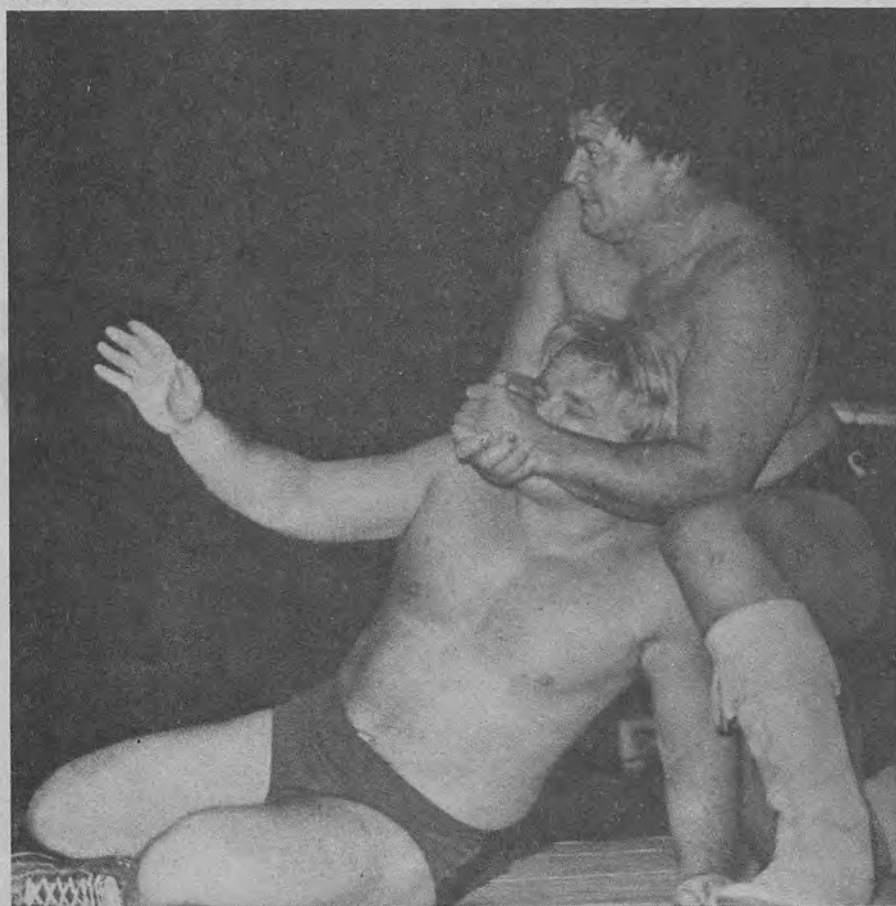
"A friend of mine once suggested Valentine and I sensed what was going to happen the first time we wrestled. Some energy created during the match sort of made it possible for us to predict how we were going to react in the future. The first time we wrestled, it was as if we had already had 100 matches that made us bitter enemies. It's like what happens when you see someone for the first time and say, 'I don't like his looks.' Something in



Wahoo McDaniel prepares to Tomahawk Chop Greg Valentine in one of their recent brawls. Wahoo intently despises both Greg and his brother, Johnny Valentine. McDaniel's hatred for the family has been known to blind his judgement, just when good sense is needed most.



Above: Wahoo has Johnny Valentine in serious trouble during their first encounter, the match which started the feud. Right: An angry and bloody McDaniel breathes a sigh of relief when his opponent, Greg Valentine, is disqualified by the referee. Below: In a few more seconds, this match with Greg will end, with the younger Valentine going down to defeat.



your brains warns about this person, telling you this man is dangerous.

"For years, I thought my friend was nuts. But I haven't been able to think of another explanation.

"As for Greg, I hate him because he's Johnny's brother. He hates me because Johnny hates me. But I've had wrestlers try to seek revenge for friends or relatives against me before. It's strange, but Greg angers me more than any of the others. The same gut hatred I feel for Johnny I feel for Greg. It's not like that with the others.

"This can't go on much longer. Sooner or later, one of us has got to go. Either Greg or I will be forced to leave. And I really don't care what happens to Valentine after he's finished. I wouldn't give him a dime for the pencil he'll sell on the street.

"You know, I'm not like this normally. But the Valentines make me this way. I don't like it, but I like the Valentines even less. I don't know why, but I hate those two more than any other human beings on earth." □

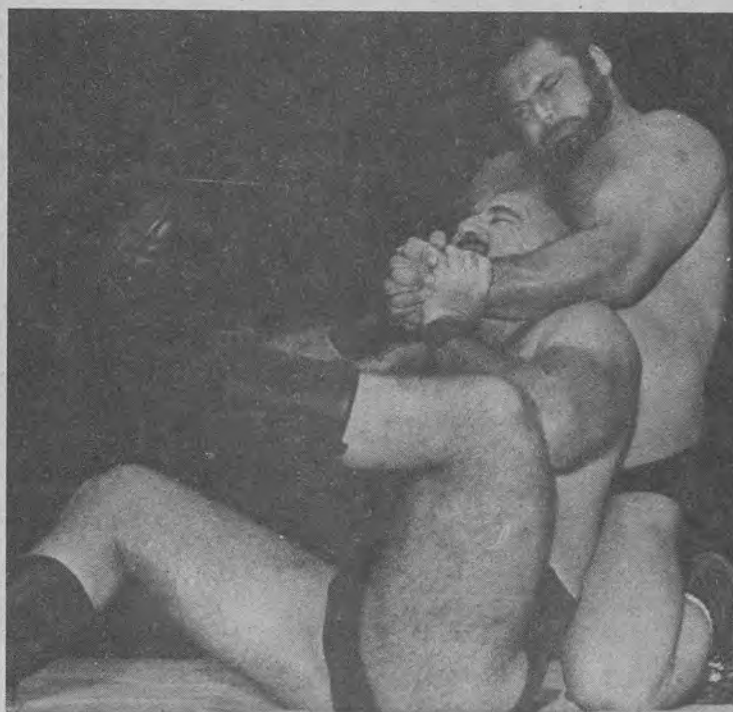


# INSIDE WRESTLING

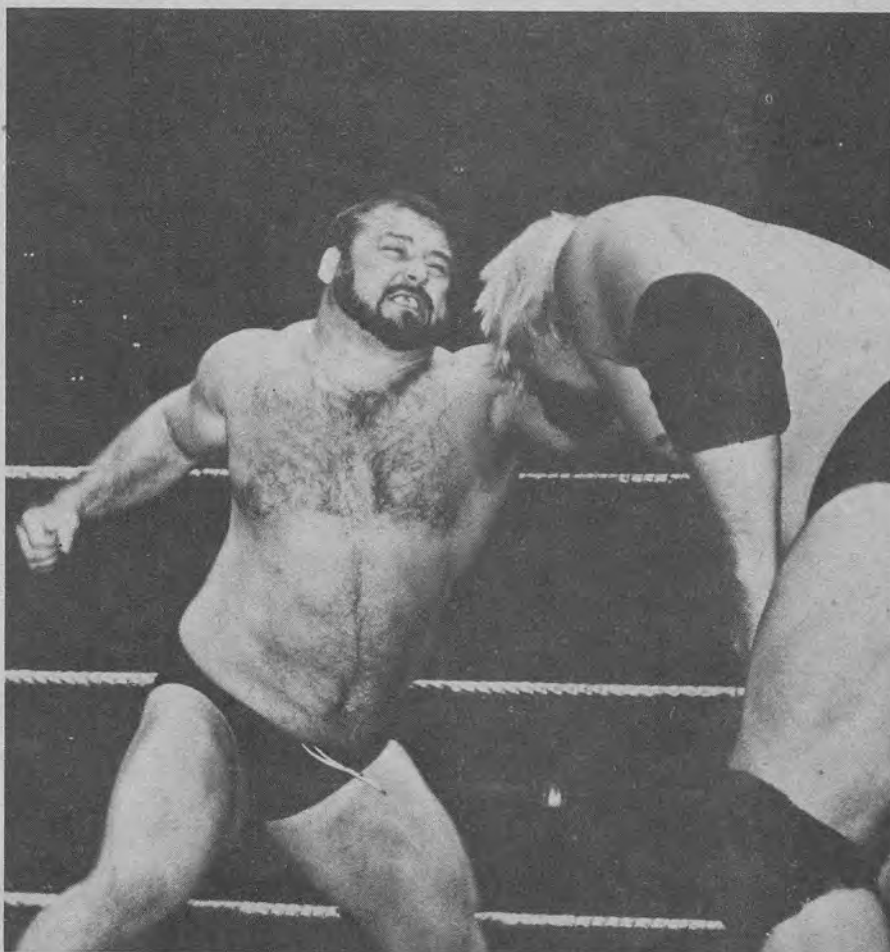
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## CAPSULE PROFILE

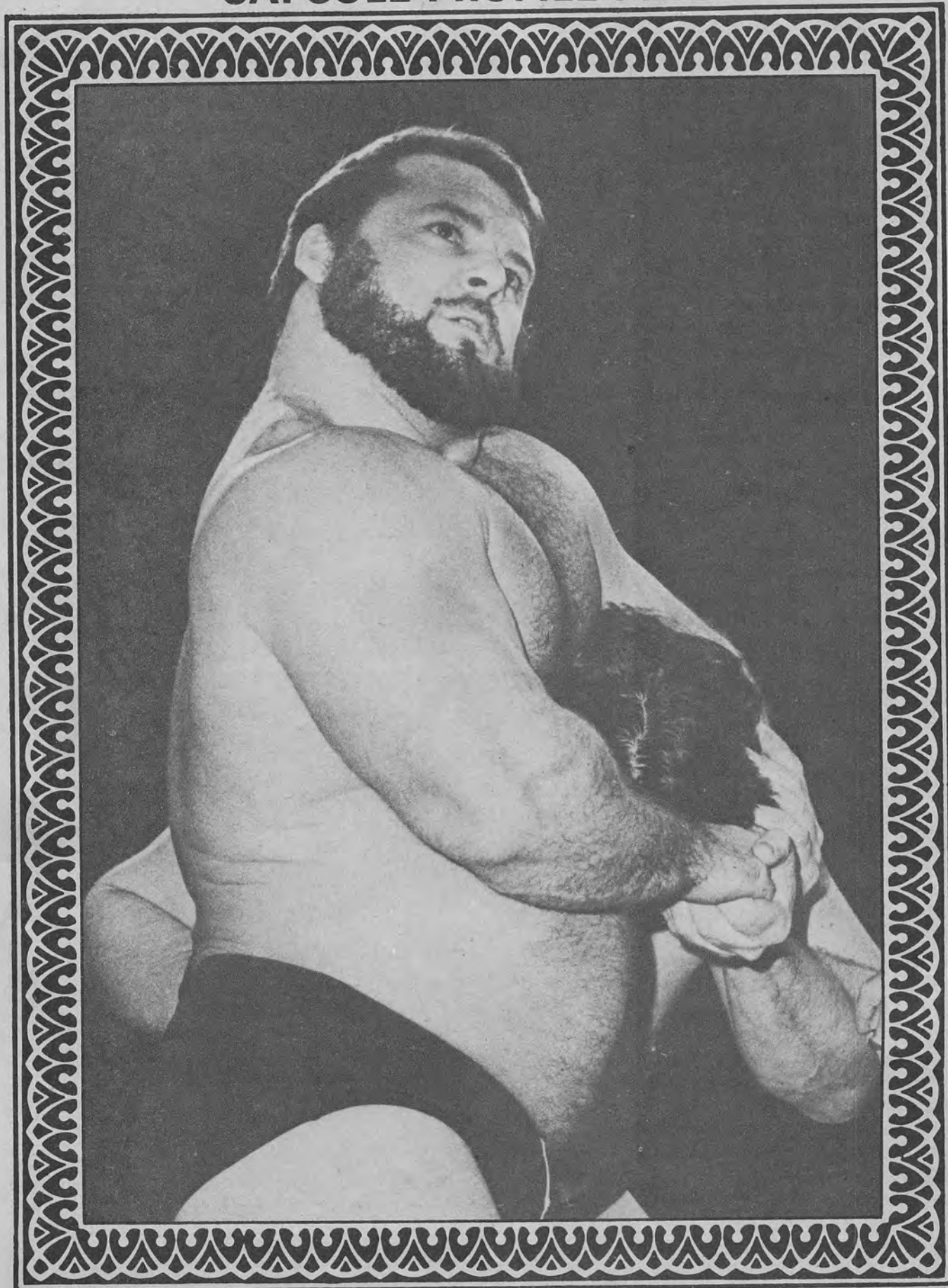
IVAN PUTSKI



**O**NE OF THE most beloved men in professional wrestling today . . . His "Polish Hammer" strikes fear into the hearts of many of the most ruthless rulebreakers . . . His thousands of fans span the globe . . . Every time he walks into an arena, the shouts of "Polish Power" can be heard for miles around (*"Every time I hear that shout, it gives me new encouragement to go on and win."*) . . . Is totally dedicated to scientific wrestling, but has been known to brawl when the situation demanded . . . His bearhug is among the best in wrestling (*"Many men have fallen because of that move. It is one of my best!"*) . . . Known for his power, he gives little consideration to speed as an effective weapon . . . Has wrestled some of the best men in wrestling, but has yet to realize his dream of a WWWF title match (*"Some day I will be given the chance to prove I could be a champion."*) . . . Constantly trying to improve his style . . . Putski is as loved for his warm personality as he is for his skill. □



## CAPSULE PROFILE PINUP

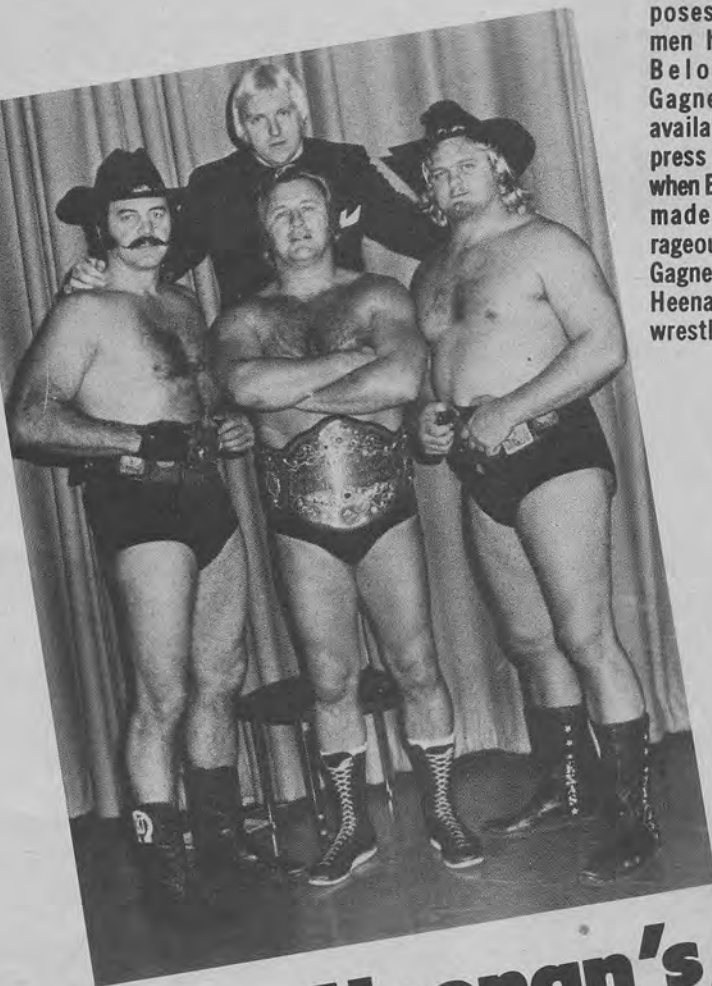


**IVAN PUTSKI**



Left: Bobby Heenan poses with the men he manages. Below: Verne Gagne was not available for the press to interview when Bobby Heenan made the outrageous claim that Gagne had joined Heenan's stable of wrestlers.

It's unbelievable, ridiculous, slanderous, and unthinkable. Yet, there exists a terrifying possibility that it's true! Could Bobby Heenan really have gained control of Verne Gagne?



## Bobby Heenan's Outrageous Claim:

**"MEET THE NEWEST MEMBER  
OF MY FAMILY...  
VERNE  
GAGNE!"**

**T**HE ANNOUNCEMENT WAS greeted with stunned silence. The quiet resounded throughout the room. Bobby Heenan had announced his latest wrestler under his control was Verne Gagne.

Heenan delighted in the effect he had created. It's not easy to shock the wrestling press. These men were good and stunned. Verne Gagne, a man whose name has meant the best in scientific wrestling for over 20 years, was the

last grappler anyone would expect to join Heenan's stable of cutthroats.

"You gentlemen astonish me," Heenan smirked, "I'd thought you'd be full of questions. After all, you've never taken my word for

anything before. I'm flattered you should accept this without a murmur of protest. Let's hope this is the beginning of a new era of trust and respect between us."

It took a few more seconds  
(Continued on page 64)



# NEWS FROM THE WRESTLING CAPITALS

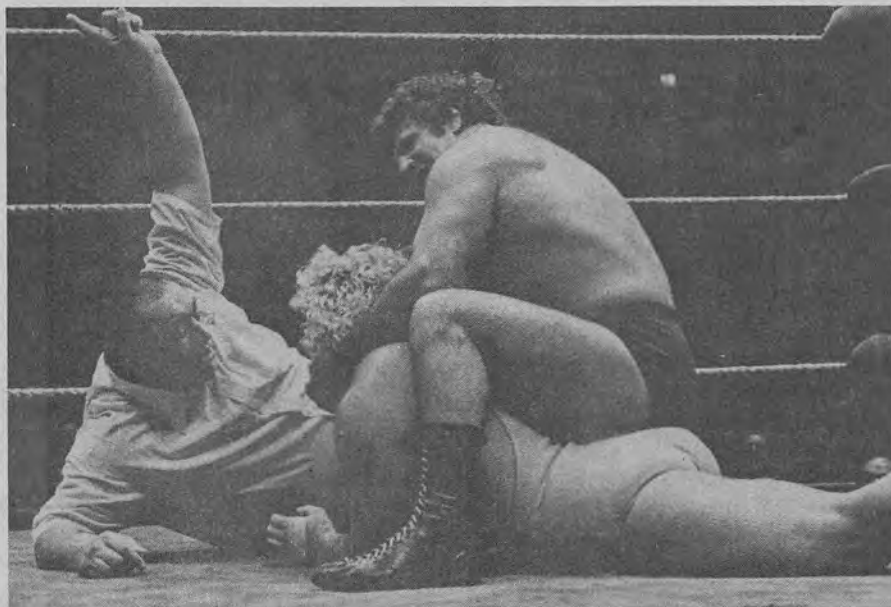


If you would like your area of the country represented in these reports, while also being officially credited with your own by-line, send us reports of the matches you attend. You will have the thrill of seeing your name in an internationally known magazine while at the same time helping to improve the quality of wrestling in your area. So why not give it a try? You will be glad you did!

Send your reports to: Correspondent Editor, Box 58, Rockville Centre, N.Y. 11571.

resorted to rulebreaking tactics. Bruno decided to fight fire with fire. Although he took quite a beating, he managed to bloody Patera. Bruno kept working on the cut on Patera's forehead. Finally, special referee Gorilla Monsoon was forced to halt the battle because Patera was losing too much blood. The "Cosmic Cowboy," Dusty Rhodes, made his Madison Square Garden debut by demolishing Pete Doherty . . . Ivan Putski won by disqualification over Executioner #1 . . . Carlos Rocha was

However, the wily Arabian madman had some help regaining the title. When he was in trouble, "Crazy" Luke Graham came to ringside and distracted the referee and Bobo. The moment Bobo's back was turned, Sheik attacked using a piece of wire. It took only a few more moments for the title to change hands and make Bobo an ex-U.S. champion. In other bouts, Graham and Tony Parisi were both counted out of the ring after they ran the ropes and collided . . . Edouard Carpentier and Gino Brito squashed Lou Klein and Reggie Love . . . Ken Patera bearhugged Steve Bolos into submission . . . The Wolfman went to a 15 minute draw with Sweet Daddy Siki.



Above: Bruno Sammartino is on his way to turning back the challenge of Ken Patera. The match was finally stopped when the referee decided Patera was bleeding too badly to continue. Right: Sheik digs his fingers into Bobo Brazil's windpipe, trying to choke his victim to death. Only Brazil's great ability allowed him to survive the savage onslaught.

**NEW YORK CITY, N.Y.—Correspondent: John Deiker**—Madison Square Garden was the setting for a titanic battle between WWF champion Bruno Sammartino and Olympic weightlifting star Ken Patera. Early in the match, neither man could gain an advantage while they engaged in tests of strength. It wasn't long before Patera became frustrated and

victorious over Executioner #2 when the masked man was counted out of the ring . . . Tor Kamata and Stan Stasiak were upset by Chief Strongbow and Billy White Wolf.

**TORONTO, ONTARIO—Correspondent: Keith Gibbs**—The Sheik took on U.S. Champion Bobo Brazil at Maple Leaf Gardens and regained the title he lost several months ago.







Above: Rocky Johnson bleeds from a gash inflicted by Abdullah the Butcher during their gory encounter. Right: John Tolos is savagely cruel during his recent bouts.



Abdullah the Butcher (above), bloody and groggy, is escorted back to the dressing room after his incredible battle against Rocky Johnson. The brawl was held in Memphis.

**MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE—Correspondent: Milton Stone—**In one of the wildest brawls ever seen, Rocky Johnson took on maniacal Abdullah the Butcher. Abdullah attacked Rocky before the bell even rang and sliced open Johnson's forehead with a foreign object. At the sight of his own blood, Johnson went berserk and unleashed a brutal attack on Abdullah. Throwing the madman from Sudan over the top rope and onto the floor, Rocky grabbed a chair and broke it over Abdullah's head. Abdullah began bleeding profusely. Rocky climbed back into the ring, followed only a few moments later by Abdullah. When the referee tried to restore order, Abdullah slugged him. This led to his immediate disqualification. Gorgeous George Jr. teamed with fan favorite Tommy Rich and took a victory over Porkchop Cash and Jerry Lawler... In a six man tag bout, Jim Dillon, Dennis Condry, and Phil Hickerson wrestled to a draw with Bill Dundee and Rick and Robert Gibson.

**RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA—Correspondent: Randy Faircloth—**Blackjack Mulligan greatly underestimated the talents of Dino Bravo, boasting before the match, "I'll beat that little punk kid with ease!" No



one was ever so wrong. Bravo totally overpowered the huge cowboy from Eagle Pass, Texas. After Mulligan missed with a flying elbow smash, Bravo caught him in an airplane spin and then took the win. Mulligan protested the victory by attacking Dino as the happy victor was leaving the ring. But to the surprise of Mulligan, Bravo turned the tide and whipped Mulligan again! Unfortunately for Dino, Mulligan's U.S. title was not on the line.

**BALTIMORE, MARYLAND—Correspondent: Edna May Bailey—**Former WWF champion Stan Stasiak tried in vain to regain the title from current champion Bruno Sammartino. Early in the match,

Stasiak surprised everyone by using some scientific tactics. But the champion proved he could outwrestle Stasiak, thus leading the way to Stan's usual dirty tactics. When he had Bruno in a weakened condition, Stasiak tried his deadly heartpunch—but Bruno ducked out of the way! Moments later, Sammartino became a raging brawler. He slammed Stasiak's head into the ringpost and then tossed him out of the ring. Stasiak, unable to reenter the ring within the allotted time, was counted out. Sammartino was declared the winner.

**SPRINGFIELD, MISSOURI—Correspondent: Allison Cory—**The "Golden Greek," John Tolos, has invaded the area and has racked up quite an impressive winning streak. His latest victim was Randy Tyler. After viciously slamming Randy to the mat three times, Tolos climbed the ropes and came crashing down, knee first, on Tyler's neck. Tolos could have pinned Randy at this point, but instead he picked Tyler up and corkscrewed him. That was all Tyler could take; any more punishment would have ended his career. Country boy Haystacks Calhoun won the annual battle royal, ousting such stars as Dick Murdoch, John Tolos and Jerry Oates to win the prize money. □

# BATTLING GIRLS

THE OFFICIAL  
MAGAZINE OF  
APARTMENT  
WRESTLING  
FROM THE  
PHOTOGRAPHERS  
AND WRITERS  
WHO KNOW IT  
BEST

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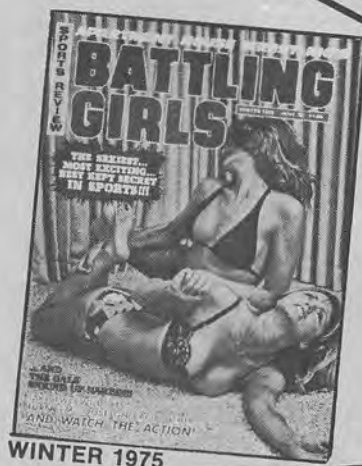
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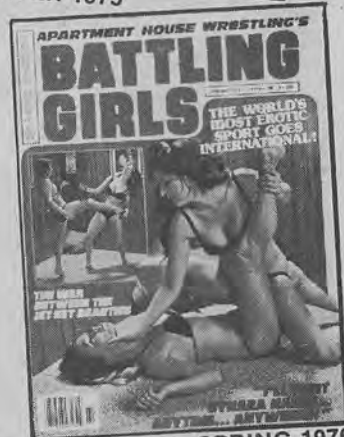
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## SINCERELY YOURS

(Continued from Page 18)

the inner longings gnawing at him. To prove he is better than Bruno is a good idea for himself. It also shows he could defeat Bruno if he ever had the chance.

Someday, Strongbow may have the chance to wrestle for the WWWF title. But that day is probably many years hence, and I am not going to sit around and wait for it. In the meantime, at least Strongbow can have the satisfaction of knowing he might be champion.

ARTHUR ROSEN  
Levittown, Pa.



One reader wrote in to say she thought Mil Mascaras should never unmask as long as he remained a professional wrestler.

### DON'T UNMASK

I was very upset after reading, "Mil Mascaras' Vow to His Fans: 'I Will Unmask Before This Year Ends!'" (April 1977). I do not believe Mil should do as he plans. He should not unmask!

While I admit I am curious to see the face behind the mask, I am more concerned about Mil's career. If he should unmask, I could never have the same respect for him. The mystery of his face is part of that special something which makes me like Mascaras so much. Remove the mystery, and he would be just like any other wrestler. I don't think this is what Mil wants.

(Continued on page 50)



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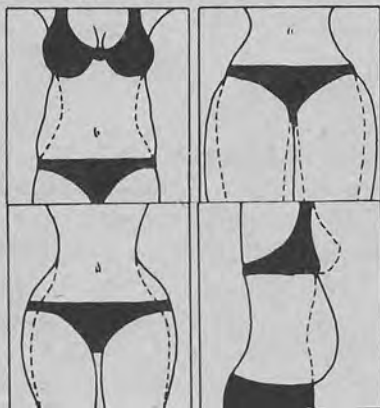
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## SINCERELY YOURS

(Continued from Page 48)

But I do have a question: Now that Terry Funk has dropped the NWA title to Harley Race, does Mil's vow still hold? After all, when Mascaras made his pledge, Terry Funk was still champion. Is Harley Race a tougher man to beat? Will Mascaras still unmask?

ARLENE HASTINGS  
McLean, Va.



Fans have written in to say they still love Bobo Brazil, and that they forgive him for not beating Terry Funk.

### A DEEP CONCERN

"My Plan to Prevent War by Mr. Wrestling II" (April 1977) was unlike your usual stories, and I think it represents a breakthrough in the world of wrestling. Here at last, a wrestler is being given the opportunity to speak out on important issues of the day. And he indeed has many important things to say.

I am not an expert in foreign affairs. I do not know if Mr. Wrestling II's plan can work. But if I were a politician in Washington, I would certainly give his ideas serious consideration. And now that this country has a president who listens to men like Mr. Wrestling II, there just might be the chance to see these ideas come to light.

Mr. Wrestling II has made an important step. His enlightenment should prove to be a shining star in the horizons of wrestling. Let us hope more wrestlers follow suit.

CHARLES BISHOP III  
Scarsdale, N.Y.

### BOBO IS TOO BRAVE

"Forgive Me for Not Taking Funk's Title" (April 1977) was a fine story about a brave man—Bobo Brazil. I have long admired and respected this wrestler. He does not have to make excuses to his fans about not taking the title from Terry Funk. We understand.

Bobo should not think he has to take on all the world's problems by himself. He did an admirable job in wrestling Terry Funk. That he was unable to win the title is secondary. That he presented himself as a gentlemen is of primary importance.

As a person who has long admired Bobo, I wish to tell him that he need not take on all the evils in wrestling. It's all right that he didn't win.

ORIN MAILER  
Windsor, Ont.

### INCONSISTENCY

Sometimes I think you have the most inconsistent staff of any sports publication.

First, I applaud Michael B. Kape's "On the Road" column for dealing with hated rulebreakers like Blackjack Lanza and Stan Hansen on a professional, intelligent basis. In return, those two gave revealing interviews, and earned my respect as well.

For Randy Gordon, may he have to watch a month of Ali-Inoki reruns. He is on an ego trip, bragging about how many wrestlers he can fool with phony disguises. Two pages devoted to journalistic bragging is two pages better left blank.

Though I can't really agree with the content of Dan Shocket's "Bodyslams and Pinfalls," it is like a breath of fresh air. At least it is good for a laugh.

So, I give you a record of one victory, one loss, and a draw for your special features.

BRUCE D. WALTERS  
Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio □



## HEREDITY IS NOT THE ONLY CAUSE OF BALDNESS.

You may think that there's just nothing you can do about losing your hair. And if your problem stems from heredity, you're right. But there are other causes of hair loss than heredity. How many people do you know who have hair problems but whose parents have thick healthy heads of hair? It's not unlikely that a lot of people reading this ad have hair problems that can be corrected by simply providing their hair with the nutrients it needs to replenish itself.

## YOU COULD BE STUFFING YOUR BODY AND STARVING YOUR HAIR.

You may be overweight. You may be constantly stuffing your body with gourmet foods. And yet you may be starving your hair to a slow, sure death. It's a scientific fact that the normal adult replaces each hair on his head every three or four years. And that hair and scalp cells grow 7 times faster than other body cells. In other words, your scalp and hair have very special nutritional needs. It's also a fact that hair simply will not grow if it isn't getting the proper nutrition. Physiologists have found that vitamins and minerals in the right combination and proportion are essential for the growth of healthy hair.

## Don't worry about the hair you lose. Worry about your ability to replace it with new hair.

There's no real mystery about hair. Young people have lustrous, vital hair and plenty of it. As we mature, it gets harder for us to replace the hair we normally shed — the same way it gets harder to replace bone cells or teeth enamel, or skin and muscle tissue. To have a full head of strong, healthy hair, we need to give the scalp the nourishment it needs to fight against aging (which can start as early as 19), to grow new hair. That's what our Vita Hair will help do.

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## JACK BRISCO

(Continued from Page 23)



Seeing Jack now is to experience a man at peace with his world. He grabs at life with unrestrained delight. His wrestling reflects this. His movements are a celebration of coordination. Even when in trouble, he relishes the opportunity to escape.

Speaking to Jack these days proves his joy is infectious. The very air crackles with his excitement, the love of living. If there is one thing Brisco enjoys more than the present, it's his plans for the future.

"I'm going to be champion again," Jack enthuses, "because I have a secret weapon. No one can overcome it. Harley Race's days as NWA champion are numbered. I can see by the look in your eyes you want to know my secret weapon."

"Just for you—and the rest of the world. Revealed: Jack Brisco's secret weapon. What I have going for me is the rediscovery of the fun I used to have wrestling. Pretty earthshaking, huh? Well, that happens to be more important than all the holds ever invented."

"To win, you must want more than just a victory. You want the victory by doing your best. If you've done your best and lost for some strange reason, then you don't really care. If you win but don't do your best, it's meaningless. A man loses sight of that when he becomes champion. I lost sight of that."

After he lost the NWA belt to Terry Funk (above), Jack went into a deep state of depression. The title battles between Brisco and Paul Jones were always classic confrontations (below).



"Well, my head is on right, now. I know what I must do and I know how to do it. It's like a whole new world has been opened for me. There's no reason why I shouldn't be champion soon. I beat Harley Race for the title once. I'm ready to do it again."

To make sure his boast becomes a reality, Brisco devotes many hours to training. It's exhausting just to watch him go through his rigorous paces. When after hours of training, when most men would want nothing more than to lie down and relax, Brisco looks like a colt just let





There were many wrestlers clamoring for Jack's title when he held the belt, including Wahoo McDaniel (above).

out to pasture. Driven is the wrong word to describe this; his body is in electric harmony with his mind. When a man is driven, it eats away at his soul. Brisco's soul is being replenished by his arduous trials.

Other wrestlers stop what they're doing when Brisco works out. There is something special about his movements which no one can explain. It doesn't need to be explained. It exists on its own.

As might be expected, wrestlers have rushed to Harley Race with the news of Brisco's new sense of purpose. Predictably, Race publicly denies being worried about it.

"Brisco can do anything he wants," Race swears, "and he won't take my title. His time is past. Brisco means nothing anymore. I don't care what he says or does in the gym. I don't care what bums he beats. He won't beat Harley Race, champion! He knows it, too. If he really thought he could beat me, he wouldn't talk so much. The only thing left of Jack Brisco is hot air."

That is Race's statement. He refuses to be interviewed further about Brisco. Race remembers who took his NWA title the first time. It would be impossible for him not to be worried about history repeating itself.

Jack Brisco doesn't concern himself with history. All he wants is the best he is capable of doing. When it comes down to it, the title isn't the most important thing to Jack. What counts for him is doing the best in each match, one battle at a time.

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# A MAN TO DEFEAT SAMMARTINO

(Continued from Page 25)



Among the men found to battle Bruno are Superstar Graham (above) and Stan Stasiak (below). Neither took Bruno's belt.



There are two ways Napoli usually finds opponents for Sammartino. He is either told about them by knowledgeable people or finds them through diligent surveying of the wrestling scene.

"As strange as this may sound," Napoli explains, "one of the best ways of finding opponents is to listen to managers like Lou Albano, Freddie Blassie, and Grand Wizard. These guys have devoted their lives to finding someone who can take Sammartino's crown. They know more about Bruno than he does himself! So when they say they've found someone who can give Sammartino a run for his money, they're usually right. They're the best aides I could have."

"However, there are times when I find someone on my own. Then, I'll tell one of the managers about him. I can tell within two minutes which manager will be best for a wrestler. Then I let the two men meet, develop their skills to the fullest, then check them out for a title match. I'm right about 80% of the time."

"Strangely enough, some of Sammartino's best foes have been flukes. Who could have predicted

get stupid against Sammartino. The pressure and Bruno are more than they can handle.

"Do you realize how many men Bruno has defeated during his second reign? When you consider the variety of challengers, it's staggering. And Bruno has beaten them all. I like to think each match has been great. They certainly have been exciting."



Spiros Arion would have become a rulebreaker and one of Bruno's best opponents? That was just about as lucky as I get.

"Most of the time, I choose the men who have earned a shot. Guys like Stan Hansen, Bobby Duncum, Bruiser Brodie, Stan Stasiak, and Ernie Ladd have made it impossible to ignore them. Ivan Koloff was a natural. He defeated Bruno to end Sammartino's first WWWF reign. I'm lucky there are so many top wrestlers around. Still, the job gets harder and harder as Bruno keeps beating the best foes around."

Does Bruno ever suggest opponents?

"He leaves most of the selection to the promoters," Napoli explains, "although he can request a certain opponent for a grudge match. He has made requests, names I refuse to divulge, whom the promoters have vetoed. He respects the fact that the money men, the guys who risk their fortunes to promote wrestling, deserve the final say. He can suggest but he would never demand. He leaves it up to the promoters as to which matches will draw the crowds."

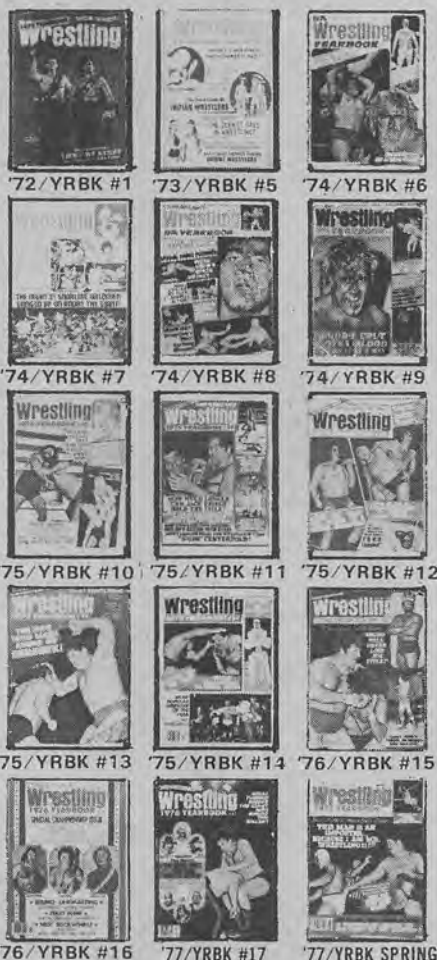
"Many people have criticized Bruno for wrestling only rulebreakers. I don't think they realize what goes into the process of selection. Bruno would like to wrestle some of the more scientific grapplers, but the promoters have the final say. And to a man, they believe a match between Bruno and a scientific wrestler wouldn't draw. Bruno has tried to argue differently, but to no avail."

"I've argued, also. I think a match between Bruno and Strongbow or Putski would be fantastic. Remember the match between Sammartino and Morales? I thought it was the greatest match I ever saw. The promoters think I'm crazy."

Dan Napoli had to cut the interview short. He had to fly to Kansas city to look at a wrestler. He'd be there for a day and then on to San Francisco. He's always on the move, always searching. He's trying to find a man the promoters think might beat Bruno Sammartino. There are easier jobs in the world. □

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# BODYSLAMS & PINFALLS

(Continued from Page 8)



Managers like Lou Albano (above) and Bobby Heenan (below) are enraged that young men are being given shots at the title at the expense of their men.



Gagne, son of former champion and still fool Verne Gagne, gets a chance at the title. There's a young man every mother in America wants her daughter to emulate. Greg moves as if he's about to break, which shows some knowledge of what's happening. With any luck, an injury will end a career gone too far already.

If not, then the real wrestlers of the AWA will have to put a stop to him. I call on Blackjack Lanza and Bobby Duncum and Mad Dog Vachon and Nick Bockwinkel. Their mission is clear. Greg Gagne must be destroyed so others wanting to follow in his footsteps will be warned. Wrestling demands it.

Last and least is Larry Zbyszko. There's not too much to worry about; most of his time is spent learning how to spell his last name. Bruno Sammartino thinks this brat will someday be champion, so you know he can't be any good. However, some of the stupider fans (meaning most) seem to have taken a liking to him. Therefore, this inconsequential nit must be punished. It would be nice to see one of The Executioners tear the kid apart. Doug Gilbert could also get the job done. Lord knows the time is running short. The more popular Zbyszko gets, the more money he earns, the more referees he bribes. Larry isn't Sammartino's pupil for nothing!

There are others who are almost as offensive as these top three. Chavo Guerrero, whose name alone can give you gas, continues to wrestle like an old maid with a guilty conscience. Happily, he just lost his Americas title to Dory Funk Jr. With any luck, this will be the beginning of the end for the Mexican joke. It's a wonder a nation capable of producing Black Gordman and Goliath can also be responsible for Guerrero. Well, every country has its shame to live down. American sport is still reeling from Backlund, Gagne and Zbyszko.

Hopefully, this column will be the last I ever have to write about these athletic pretenders. I'm looking forward to seeing them all moving about in wheelchairs. They must be shown professional wrestling is not for overgrown children with daydreams of glory. It's a tough sport for tough men. No one else need apply.

Soon, the sport will be run by men who deserve to be pro wrestlers. When managers like Lou Albano and Bobby Heenan don't suffer persecution, when the maneuvers of Stan Stasiak and The Sheik aren't banned when they get too effective, then wrestling will be what it has always promised. Once the cowards are gone, the sport will be truly great. □



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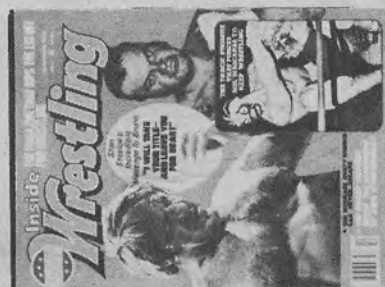
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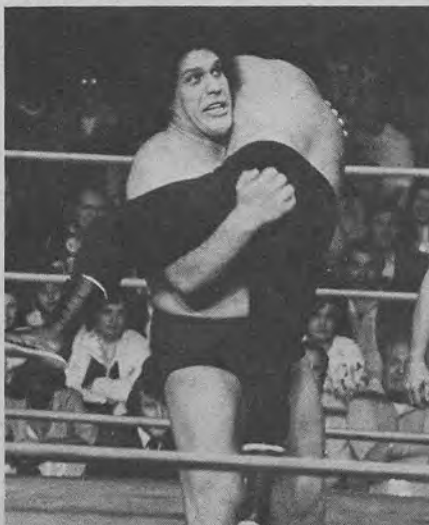


## Andre's Answer

(Continued from Page 37)



No matter how vicious the opponent, if the fans want Andre to wrestle someone, he wrestles that man! Black Gordman (above) was certainly taught a lesson by Andre. Dr. Death (below) also found out he should never have tangled with Andre the Giant!



especially your fans. We would all miss you.

"No matter what you decide, we all still love and respect you."

It took Andre a few moments before he could speak after reading this message. To know people he never met feel this way about him means more to him than anything else. There is no question Andre will not leave wrestling after reading letters like this.

"Do you need to see another letter?" Andre asked as he once again reached into the basket. "This one is from John Retano Jr. who lives in the Bronx, New York.

"I am very concerned," the letter began, "with your decision to quit wrestling. I know it wasn't fair your promoters wouldn't let you take the acting job, but I like you better as a wrestler. Please stay."





Even in a handicap match against Black Gordman and Goliath, Andre's incredible talents enable him to go on to victory. Is it any wonder the fans did not want him to leave wrestling?

Andre put the letter down on his desk. He then turned to the tape recorder on the desk. He wanted to make sure every word would be transcribed and appear in this magazine. After the many messages to him, Andre had one for the fans:

"This is my promise. Under no circumstances, no matter what the promoters may do, will I leave wrestling. The fans have shown me more love than any man deserves in a lifetime. I will do what they want, when they want. After what they've done for me, I can do no less.

"The matches I will take will be for the fans. In any area, in any circumstances, I'll defeat the men the fans want me to battle. No match will be too tough. I'll always have time for the fans. All they need to do is write me in care of **INSIDE WRESTLING** and I'll respond to their call as soon as humanly possible. All they have to do is write a letter and then watch for the announcement of my appearance in their area.

"The fans saved me from making a terrible mistake. All I ask is the chance to pay them back for their aid."

With that, Andre turned from the tape recorder, too choked with emotion to say anything more. Besides, there was nothing more to say. □

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## ON THE ROAD

(Continued from Page 10)



Bobby has had offers from all three major associations. Right now, he is in the process of deciding just where he wants to wrestle full-time.

everything must be tempered. Nothing should get so out of hand I cannot control it. Fleeting prosperity is nice, but it isn't good. I want my fortunes to endure.

"That is why I have yet to decide which association I want to stay in. I had my start in the AWA under the guidance of Verne Gagne. But Greg Gagne is there now, and I don't think there is room in the AWA for both of us. My catapult to fame and fortune came in the NWA. I know I could someday be champion of that association, but I wonder, is it worth the effort? The WWWF probably offers the greatest opportunity for me. It is no secret that Bruno Sammartino is going to retire soon. I know how good the competition is. I know I could become the next major

champion of that association. In many ways, it is possible I could equal or surpass the success of Sammartino. The thought is inviting, but only if Bruno decides to retire. If not, I don't know if I would want to stay in the WWWF. First I have to see if I like the area. That will take time."

For the next few minutes, Bobby stared out the windows at the Statue of Liberty. Finally, he spoke. "That is a great lady out there in the harbor. She has welcomed many people to these shores. But from 107 stories up, she seems a bit distended. Is she welcoming me to New York, or is she telling me to stay away? I don't know."

We parted company in the lobby of the World Trade Center. I was headed back to the office. Bobby was headed for negotiations with WWWF officials in New Jersey. I didn't envy him the decisions he was about to make. □



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# BEHIND THE DOOR

(Continued from Page 12)



Above: Mil Mascaras was selected as one of the top 10 wrestlers in the sport. Below: Harley Race recently suffered some considerable embarrassment.



We talked for close to one hour, and I found him to be every bit as rotten as I had always imagined. As Al Grogan, I told him I read INSIDE WRESTLING, and told him I knew about Randy Gordon and his crusade against the rulebreakers of professional wrestling. I told him I was "totally against Gordon and all he stands for," and Race, like the yo-yo he is, believed me.

I then told Race that Matt Fazio was one of my personal photographers, and asked Harley to step out into the hall for some posed pictures. He agreed, and went immediately into the hall with Matt.

As Race stepped out of the dressing room, I went right to work. Using a razor blade, I sliced the inside seam of Harley's trunks to the point that anything more than a few knee bends would split them wide open. I then went out to the hall, thanked Harley for his time, then went out to the arena to watch my handiwork. It was beautiful!

Race and Dusty Rhodes were really going at it, when suddenly, there was a loud, "RRRIPPP!" Harley then felt a draft where he is not used to feeling a draft. I laughed all the way back to his dressing room, and left him a note that said, "Thanks for the great show. See you again real soon I hope. Al Grogan. P.S.—They just don't make wrestling trunks like they used to!"

I recently made my debut as a wrestling referee. I did so in the NWA area in one of the preliminary matches. I have my work cut out for me, for every rulebreaker in the country is now out for my blood. I'm warning all of them here and now—I plan to be a fair referee. But if I catch any man with a foreign object—I don't care who he is—I will disqualify him immediately and report it to the athletic commission of every state in which he wrestles.

Yesterday, my colleague and ex-good friend Dan Shocket interviewed Ken Patera and Lou Albano. He came back to the office



and planned on transcribing their tape, which knocked everything that is good in professional wrestling. Dan had to postpone his story for a while, when suddenly, he found that his tape recorder was no longer working. Hmmm. Wonder how that happened?!!

I've received many letters asking about handsome Ricky Steamboat. It appears the well-built, young native of Hawaii is destined for greatness. He is a weight-lifting enthusiast, weighs just over 200 pounds, has a 17½-inch neck, 18-inch biceps, and a cat-like quickness that sees him through many rough times. He detests rulebreakers, and battles even harder when matched against a top name bad guy. He is very relaxed before a match, which is quite unusual for a rookie, and he can sometimes be found playing cards or backgammon only moments before going out to win yet another match. Personally, I believe Ricky is one of the best rookies to come along in many years, and I think he'll be a favorite of many fans for years to come.

I will no longer take the time or effort to pass your regards along to any rulebreaker. In the thousands of letters I get every month, many of them ask me to pass along best wishes to a certain wrestler. Whether he was good or bad, I tried my best to fulfill your requests. But no longer. If you want me to send your regards to a scientific wrestler, I surely will. But I will *not* waste my time on any filthy rulebreaker. Do you know what most of them do when I give them your letters? They rip them up or flush them down the toilet! How can you be the fan of a rulebreaker?

If you don't care about getting stepped on or treated like an animal, then keep worshipping men such as Ox Baker, Ken Patera, Billy Graham, Baron Von Raschke, etc. All they care about is themselves. If you want to know about a scientific wrestler or just have something to say, then write to me. But if it's a rulebreaker you want to know about, write to Dan Shocket. He's almost as reprehensible as they are!

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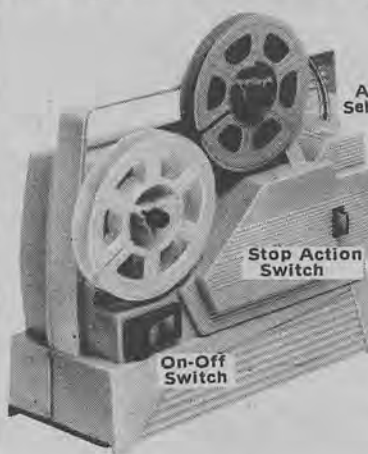
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## Bobby Heenan

(Continued from Page 45)

before people were able to react. That's how long the new era of trust and respect lasted. It was replaced by one of the most tempestuous sessions ever held.

"What makes you think we'd even dignify that lie by questioning it?" one veteran reporter asked with a sneer. "I've covered Verne's matches since he broke into the sport as a young man. I'm proud he calls me a friend. And as a friend, I'm not listening to this garbage any longer."

With that, the man stormed out of the room. He was joined by more than a few reporters, men who felt they owed Gagne the respect of not listening to Heenan any longer. For a second, an ugly look contorted Heenan's face. But before it could set, the expression changed to a mirthless smile.

"Some guys never could take the truth," Heenan said coldly. "So they leave when it hurts. Well, this is life, gentlemen, not some stupid men's club. Honor is worth just so much hot air when it comes down to it. And it has come down to it for Verne Gagne."

"The man knows he needs me. It didn't take him long to realize it, either. As long as my wrestler controls the title, Gagne doesn't stand a chance. He needs me to teach him how to survive. The sport is a far cry from what it was when he first started. It's a lot meaner, a lot nastier. And if you're going to lie down with dogs, you'd better not have too many complaints about fleas."

"I have Gagne's signature on the dotted line because I promised him the title. It didn't take more than 25 minutes for me to show him how I'd make him champion. And let's get one thing straight, offended gentlemen of the press: Verne Gagne came to me. This alliance wasn't my idea. All the praise and blame is his."

The press was overwhelmed for only a moment. Then something Heenan had said clicked. About



When Nick Bockwinkel won the AWA belt from Verne Gagne (above), Bobby Heenan was there to guide Nick to victory. Would Heenan do the same thing for Gagne?

four reporters shouted the question at the same time.

"You said you have Gagne's signature on the dotted line. Where's the contract? We'd like to see that contract."

For the first time that afternoon, Heenan realized he'd lost control of the proceedings. His words came out in a rush as he tried to get back an advantage everyone knew he lost.

"They're at the lawyers, all six copies. They won't be ready to be released to the public for about a week. The lawyers want to do a few things I really don't understand."

"If the lawyers are still working on the contract, then they can't have been signed."

"They've been signed! They've been signed!"

Rather than face any more questions, Heenan fled the room. Reporters didn't bother to follow him. They were too interested in contacting Gagne. Then it all began to fit into place.

Gagne's office revealed Verne was on vacation. He had left



express orders not to be disturbed about anything except a family emergency. They promised Verne would get back to us as soon as he returned. No one in the office ever heard of any deal between Gagne and Heenan.

Heenan's plan was evident instantly. Gagne wouldn't be back before the wrestling magazines went to press. Therefore, in both newspapers and magazines, Heenan's claim would be printed without a denial from Gagne. The



Gagne has tried several times to regain his title from Bockwinkel. If Verne is to be managed by Heenan, will he have a chance at the belt again?

words would look like an accusation: Verne Gagne was unavailable for comment. Heenan was slinging mud without giving his victim a chance to wipe it off.

So the record must stand, at least for the moment, that Bobby Heenan claims he has signed Verne Gagne. No contract has been produced, nor have the two of them appeared together in public. But Verne Gagne was unavailable for comment.

Bobby Heenan is very proud of himself. Some newspapers have already carried the story. Others may soon follow. And the accusation will be repeated and in some corners believed. A reputation borne of 20 years honorable labor is being dragged through the mud. And Verne Gagne is unavailable for comment. □

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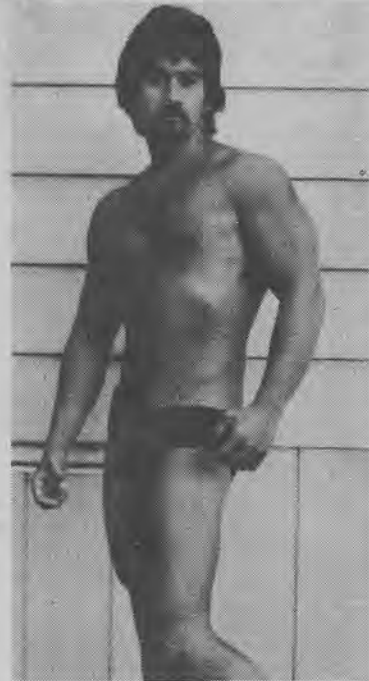
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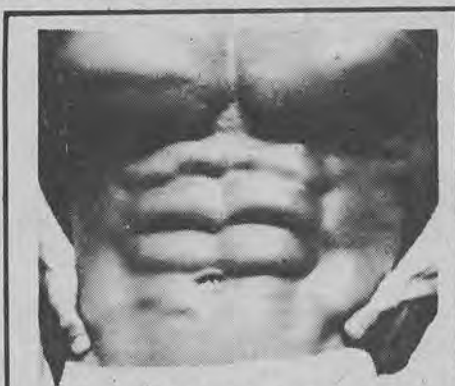
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Your gross profit on three servicemen is \$21 per hour. Duraclean dealers find it easy to gross \$7 per hour on EACH serviceman plus \$12 an hour on any service they themselves render. The 24 page illustrated booklet we'll mail you (with no obligation) explains how most of your gross profit becomes clear net profit. Your income is limited only by the number of servicemen you employ.

You can operate from a shop, office, or your home. Equipment is light and portable.

At the start, you may want to render service yourself... or you can start with full or part time servicemen. This business is easy to learn... easy to start... so easy to service that women dealers do it. We prefer you have no experience... not have to "unlearn" old ways.

We are NOW enlarging this worldwide system of individually-owned service businesses. If you are reliable, honest and willing to work to become financially independent, we invite you to mail the coupon.

When you receive our illustrated booklet, you will see the way we show you step by step how to quickly get customers... and still more customers from their recommendations.

You have 7 superior services that are rendered "on location" in homes, offices, hotels, theaters, clubs, motels and institutions.

These are not ordinary services. You have

the prestige and endorsement of leading furniture makers and carpet mills, of Parents' Magazine and McCall's, of Research and Testing Laboratories.

National magazine advertising explains superior merits of your services, builds your customer confidence and brings job leads to you.

We and a Duraclean dealer will train you and assist you. He'll reveal his successful, proven methods. You have pre-tested newspaper and yellow-page ads, commercials, and a full mailing program.

Stores, upholsterers, insurance adjusters, and decorators refer jobs to our dealers. These year 'round services are in constant demand.

## Start Small, Grow Big in this Booming Business

Many men have said to us, "I can't afford to give up my job till I know I have a sure thing... a sound business that will provide both security and a better living for my family."

That made sense to us so we worked out such a plan... and those same men are now enjoying a Duraclean dealership in many communities. You don't experiment. You use tested, proven methods. You have our backing and "know how."

Does this appeal to you? Don't decide now. Mail the coupon so you'll have the facts to decide wisely. There is no obligation. You'll then know whether this is what you want.

You can start small and grow big. A third century ago Duraclean was an idea... but it caught fire and spread to a world wide service. Why did it spread? (1) superior processes. (2) proven customer-getting methods (3) Day to day guidance from Headquarters.

Our first service, the care of upholstery and carpets not only cleans, it enlivens the fibers... revives dull colors. Pile rises with new life. There's no harsh machine scrubbing. No soaking. Mild aerated foam lightly applied lifts out dirt, grease, many unsightly spots like magic. Furnishings are used again in a few hours.

Government figures show service businesses are growing faster than industries and stores... \$750 million yearly potential just in rug and furniture cleaning. Your 6 other services are explained in the free booklet we'll mail you.

Less than \$1500 establishes YOUR OWN business. A day's profit more than pays the monthly payments we finance for you.

Men frequently take in partners. We furnish electric equipment and, with first shipment, enough materials to return your TOTAL investment. If you have good habits and know the importance of customer satisfaction, you can likely qualify for a Duraclean dealership.

TODAY is the time to reserve a Duraclean dealership, before someone takes your location. It's been said, "Opportunity knocks but once at every man's door." This could be that one rare opportunity in your life.

It is surprisingly easy to learn this business. You can decide from the information we will send you whether to apply for a dealership. So, with no obligation whatever, mail the coupon TODAY. Cut it out NOW so you won't forget to mail it.

## Mail this coupon TODAY It may put you in business

**Duraclean International**  
7-796 Duraclean Bldg., Deerfield, Ill. 60015

With no obligation, mail 24 page illustrated booklet telling how and why I can quickly increase my income and family security while still employed, how you'll help finance me. No salesman will call.

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_  
State & Zip \_\_\_\_\_



SOME YEARS AGO I was a printer in a small Michigan town. I drew a pretty fair pay check but it wouldn't stretch far enough to provide the kind of living I wanted for my wife and five children.

Then one day I was reading a magazine just as you now are and I saw an ad. It intrigued me. It offered me the steadily growing income I had always hoped for. It said I would have greater security and personal independence... and that's what I had been wanting.

I was a little skeptical, but I said to myself, "for a postage stamp I can find out." So I mailed the coupon. In a few days, I got a letter with a booklet that gave the whole story. It opened my eyes. I could see why owning my own business was so much easier than I had always thought... why the day to day guidance of a successful worldwide organization could assure my own success.

I read the booklet several times. It just seemed too good to be true. I talked it over with my wife. We decided that now was the time to make the forward step... there was no reason to keep postponing an income increase.

So, I applied for a Duraclean dealership and I was accepted. I stayed with my job... ran a few ads... sent some mailings... contacted a few stores and told my friends about the superior services I was now equipped to give them. Evenings and Saturdays, I rendered the service. As the business grew, I added servicemen.

I found that I didn't have to develop a single idea myself. Every step had been prepared for me and pre-tested. Hundreds of other men had already proven my methods successful.

It didn't take long to see that I was making three to four times (yes, 3 to 4 times) as much per hour in my own business as in my printing job. So, after only seven months with a good following of customers, I quit my job to go full time on my own. In the meantime, I had enjoyed all this extra income on top of my salary.

Each day, we realized what a serious mistake not mailing that coupon would have been... and how that little act that seemed so trivial at the time actually changed our lives. The steadily growing income brought us

# An ATLAS BODY? In 7 days

**THE INSULT  
THAT  
MADE A MAN  
OUT OF 'MAC'**

my method of **DYNAMIC-TENSION** starts giving you results you can feel and your friends will notice. Big, useful muscles. Gain pounds in weight where needed. Lose "pot belly."

Take a good honest look at yourself! Are you proud of your body — or are you satisfied to go through life being just "half the man" you could be? No matter how ashamed you are of your present physical condition — or how old or young you are — the "sleeping" muscles already present in your body can turn you into a **REAL** man! Believe me, I know — because I was once a skinny, scrawny 97-pound half-alive weakling! People used to laugh at my build and make fun of me. I was ashamed to strip for sports or the beach... shy of girls... afraid of healthy competition.

## HOW I CHANGED FROM A 97 LB. WEAKLING TO A REAL MAN.

One day, I discovered a secret that changed me from a timid, frightened scarecrow into "The World's Most Perfectly Developed Man" — a "magic formula" that can help turn you, too, into a marvellous physical specimen... a **REAL** man from head to toe... a man who **STANDS OUT** in any crowd! What's my secret? "**DYNAMIC-TENSION**" — the natural method! No theory. No gadgets or contraptions. You just do as I did. Simply take the "sleeping" muscles already present inside your own body — build them up — use them every day in walking, bending over, reaching, even sitting! Almost before you know it, you're covered with a brand-new suit of beautiful, rock-hard **SOLID MUSCLE!**

## SEND FOR FREE BOOK AND 7 DAY TRIAL OFFER.

So sure am I of how fast "Dynamic-Tension" works that I make this offer to you. Try my course for 7 days and in even that short period of time you will have results that not only you can feel, but your friends will notice, or it costs you nothing. Send for my free book. **WRITE NOW!**  
CHARLES ATLAS Dept 218F  
49 W. 23rd St., New York, N.Y.

*Charles  
Atlas*



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HAND BALANCING**

## DO YOU WANT...

A MUSCULAR  
CHEST?



BIG ARM MUSCLES?



POWERFUL LEGS?



MAGNETIC  
PERSONALITY?



BROAD  
SHOULDERS?



MORE WEIGHT?



## ...THEN MAIL THIS NOW!

HERE'S THE KIND  
OF BODY I WANT

- ☐ MORE MUSCLE  
— BIGGER CHEST
- ☐ BIG ARM  
MUSCLES
- ☐ TIRELESS LEGS
- ☐ MAGNETIC  
PERSONALITY
- ☐ BROAD BACK  
& SHOULDERS
- ☐ MORE WEIGHT

**CHARLES ATLAS** Dept. 218F  
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